

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee**

Unedited transcript

799th Meeting

Thursday, 2 April 2009, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. V. Kopal (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.22 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 799th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

We will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items. Time permitting, and subject to availability of the draft report of the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, in all languages, we will proceed with the adoption of the report on this agenda item.

At the end of the morning, the Working Group on Agenda Item 11 will hold its fifth meeting.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

Yes, our Secretary has an announcement for you.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, to inform delegations that we have now received, in all languages, the draft report of the Chairman of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2009/Def/L.1.

So Mr. Chairman, the document is before delegations and we can proceed after agenda item 12

with the adoption of the report under agenda item 6(a). Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Secretary for your announcement.

Proposals to the Committee for new agenda items (agenda item 12)

And we will now continue with our consideration of agenda item 12, Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items.

The Secretariat has prepared a Conference Room Paper, it is paper number 19, code number A/AC.105/C.2/2009/CRP.19, reflecting the consensus reached in our discussions on the provisional agenda of the Legal Subcommittee for its forty-ninth session in 2010, as well as on the proposals for new items to be retained for possible discussion at a subsequent session of the Subcommittee.

I would also like to note that the discussions concerning the proposals made by Colombia and by Saudi Arabia will be reflected in the report of the Subcommittee.

Is there any delegation wishing to take the floor now?

I recognize the distinguished representative of China.

Mr. Y. XU (China): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving me the floor. Although I am quite hesitant to take the floor at this stage but we do have some difficulties to understand

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the terminology used in the new proposed agenda which is proposed by Saudi Arabia that in this new version it gives the dissemination of space images. Please we do not have the Chinese version. I am not sure whether in the future we have a clear understanding of what is space images. I need a clearer consideration of the original proposal of Saudi Arabia, it used the space images or space-made images. So I will seek a clarification what is meant by space images. It seems to me that it maybe related to the Moon or other celestial bodies images rather than on the surface of the Earth. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of China for your contribution to the discussion and perhaps our distinguished colleague from Saudi Arabia might be willing to explain it.

You have the floor Sir.

Mr. M. A. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia): What we are thinking of the space imaging is that the images from the Earth observation satellites.

The CHAIRMAN: Completed because of the reasons explained by our colleague from China?

Mr. M. A. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia): The space images they are most of the time in Arabic, we say specifically _____, but anyhow if I wanted to describe it more carefully, it will be the Earth observation satellite images.

The CHAIRMAN: Earth observation satellite images? Does it satisfy you distinguished representative of China? Yes, I see you nodding. Very well. Thank you for your cooperation. The Secretary noted it.

Could you read know the whole text?

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Secretariat understands that then the proposed item would read as follows: "Regulation of the Dissemination of Earth Observation Satellite Images Through the World Wide Web".

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, any other comment on this paper?

I see none.

May I take it that we can conclude the consideration of the provisional agenda of the Subcommittee at its session in 2010 as amended?

Yes.

It is so decided.

Report of the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a), Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space

I would now like to proceed with the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

Distinguished delegates, I declare open the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a), Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

As you know, the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. José Monserrat Filho, had to leave Vienna last week and he asked me to assist him in the adoption of the report of the Working Group which was prepared during his work and presence here.

Therefore, please allow me to guide you through the adoption of the report as the Acting Chairman of the Working Group.

You should have before you the following document, A/AC.105/C.2/2009/Def/L.1, in all official languages of the United Nations.

We shall, therefore, proceed with paragraph-by-paragraph adoption of the report of the Working Group.

So first of all the title, Draft Report of the Chairman of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

Paragraph 1.

Any objections?

No objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 2.

Any objections?

No objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 3.

Paragraph 3(a).

Now paragraph 3(b).

Paragraph 3(c).

Paragraph 3(d).

And paragraph 3(e).

Any objections against drafting paragraph 3 as
a whole?

None.

Adopted.

Paragraph 4.

Any objections?

Adopted.

Paragraph 5.

Any objections?

None.

Adopted.

Paragraph 6.

Any objections?

None.

Adopted.

Paragraph 7.

Any objections?

I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 8.

Any objections?

None.

Adopted.

Paragraph 9.

Any objections?

I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 10.

Any objections?

Adopted.

Paragraph 11.

Any objections?

I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 12.

Any objections?

Adopted.

Paragraph 13(a).

Now paragraph 13(b).

Paragraph 13(i).

Paragraph 13 (ii).

Paragraph 13 as a whole.

Any objections?

No objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 14.

Any objections?

No objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 15.

Any objections?

I see none.

Adopted.

The document as a whole.

Any objections? Any comments?

None.

Adopted.

The report as a whole is adopted.

Please allow me to express my gratitude to all delegations for the constructive cooperation during the work of the Working Group at its forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee. And I would also like to express our gratitude to the distinguished Chairman of the Working Group, Professor Monserrat Filho, for his efforts and for his guidance of our discussions and I would like to kindly ask the distinguished delegation of Brazil to pass our gratitude to Professor Monserrat Filho. Thank you very much.

Distinguished delegates, I now declare closed the third meeting of the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a), Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

Distinguished delegates, we will now continue our consideration of, no, sorry, because I have to reconvene the 799th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The report of the Working Group which has just been adopted by the members will be included in document A/AC.105/C.2/2009/Def/L.1.

It is now my pleasure to inform you that the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, has concluded its work at the current session of the Legal Subcommittee. And the Working Group held four meetings during which it was able to elaborate a number of recommendations and to adopt a set of decisions which constitute our good foundation for its future work at its meeting during the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2010.

I think it is my pleasure to submit the report to the Subcommittee now for its adoption.

Are there any comments or wishes or maybe objections?

I see none.

So I thank you.

It is adopted.

I received two drafts of my introductory works, you know, different and I have to compose it, but the next time, Mr. Secretary and the distinguished staff member, I would like to prepare to have it in one piece.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to adjourn this meeting so that the Working Group on Agenda Item 11, National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, can hold its fifth meeting. But before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will proceed with the adoption of the first part of the Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. And I was promised by our distinguished Secretary that this first part of the Report of the Legal Subcommittee will be available during the lunch break in all languages. Thank you very much.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

This meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10.42 a.m.