

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

Unedited transcript

827th Meeting

Thursday, 31 March 2011, 3 p.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. A. Talebzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The meeting was called to order at 3.13 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I now declare open the 827th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I would first like to inform you of our programme of work for this afternoon. We will continue our consideration of agenda item 3, general exchange of views; agenda item 6(a) the definition and delimitation of outer space and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 10, general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures. We will then adjourn the plenary meeting so that the working group on agenda item 6 can hold its second meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Monserrat Filho of Brazil.

Are there questions or comments on this proposed schedule? I see none.

I give the floor to the Secretariat for an announcement.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) To announce that the G77 and China will have a meeting today in Room M7 in this building right after the adjournment of the working group this afternoon. So, when we have completely finished in the conference room here there will be an internal meeting of the G77 and China in room M7. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for the announcement.

General exchange of views (agenda item 3)

Distinguished delegates I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 3, general exchange of views. The first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of the Secure World Foundation. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Secure World Foundation, Mr. Walker.

Mr. B. BASELEY-WALKER (Secure World Foundation) Over the last year the Secure World Foundation has continued to be involved in the promulgation and development of international space law. Our 2010 Space Law and Policy Conference, held in Washington D.C. brought together legal experts from the civil, military and commercial communities to discuss key issues in the development of international space law and policy. The 2011 Space Law and Policy Conference will take place in May of this year, again in Washington D.C.

In other space law work Secure World Foundation supported the winner of the North American regional round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition to attend the finals of the competition in Prague in September 2010 and we will be supporting the North American winner of the 2011 regional rounds to attend the finals in Cape Town later this year.

Secure World Foundation also attended the United Nations/Thailand Workshop on Space law,

In its resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that, beginning with its thirty-ninth session, the Committee would be provided with unedited transcripts in lieu of verbatim records. This record contains the texts of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages as transcribed from taped recordings. The transcripts have not been edited or revised.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week of the date of publication, to the Chief, Conference Management Service, Room D0771, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.



'Activities of States in outer space in light of new developments: meeting international responsibilities and establishing national legal and policy frameworks' in November 2010. We support the continuance of similar initiatives which aid the development of national competence in space law and emerging space States and emerging space regions. In this vein, Secure World Foundation, in partnership with the China Academy of Science, Institute for Policy and Management, will be holding a small workshop in Beijing on space policies and laws in May of this year.

Currently Secure World Foundation is working on, or closely following, various international initiatives on space law at the national level. During the last year, several of these should be mentioned as particularly of note.

The progress on soft law space initiatives which focus on all aspects of space security, such as the proposal for an international code of conduct for space activities. In the realm of this Committee we would commend the initiative of the University of Vienna's conference on soft law in outer space that will take place this Saturday.

An increased emphasis on the need for international engagement on space activities in order to ensure continued utility for all space actors as epitomized by the 2010 United States national space policy.

Moves forward on key foundational space security initiatives that will clearly impact the civil sector, such as the work of the Russian Federation on promoting a group of governmental experts on transparency and confidence building measures for space activities.

The work of the commercial space sector and improving space safety through data sharing under the auspices of the Space Data Association (SDA).

Times are changing in the space arena. The reliance on space services of so many global citizens in both developing and developed countries has grown dramatically, from weather to GPS, credit cards to tele-education, space applications now touch the lives of a large part of the world's population. This Committee and its member States must continue to move with the times and engage with the ever-growing commercial space sector and with cross-cutting initiatives that aim to establish norms and behaviour for space.

Secure World Foundation would like to stress that such initiatives, wherever they originate, be it in

the military, commercial or civil sectors, can help to build predictability and deliver increased levels of space safety and sustainability for all space actors. Over the coming Secure World Foundation plans to continue to promote ?? knowledge and development of soft and hard law space instruments. These are essential keystones in the long-term sustainability of outer space. We stand ready to assist the work of the Subcommittee in any way we can on these matters. Many thanks.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Secure World Foundation for a very good statement.

No more speakers on my list. Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item at this time? I see none.

We will continue our consideration of agenda item 3, general exchange of views, tomorrow morning.

The definition and delimitation of outer space (agenda item 6(a))

The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union (Agenda item 6(b))

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 6(a) the definition and delimitation of outer space and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

No speakers on my list. Are there any delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item? I see none.

We will therefore continue our consideration of agenda item 6(a) the definition and delimitation of outer space and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, tomorrow morning.

General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures (agenda item 10)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 10, general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures.

No speakers on my list. Are there any delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item? I see none.

We will therefore continue our consideration of agenda item 10, general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, tomorrow morning.

I will shortly adjourn this meeting so that the working group on agenda item 6(a) can hold its second meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Monserrat Filho of Brazil. Before doing so I would like to remind delegations of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning. We will meet promptly at 10 a.m. At that time we will continue our consideration of agenda item 3, general exchange of views; agenda item 6(a) the definition and delimitation of outer space and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 10, general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation

measures. We will begin agenda item 12, proposals to the Committee for new agenda items, to discuss organizational matters of the work of this Subcommittee.

I would like to announce that tomorrow morning from 9-10 a.m. informal consultations will be held on the 1 June commemorative segment in room M7.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule? I see none.

I now invite Mr. Monserrat Filho of Brazil to chair the second meeting of the working group on agenda item 6.

This meeting is adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The meeting closed at 3.25 p.m.