30 March 2010

English only

Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Forty-ninth session
22 March-1 April 2010
Agenda item 13
Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of
Outer Space for new items to be considered by the
Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session

Note by the Secretariat

1. Agenda of the Subcommittee at its present session

The following substantive items are on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its present session:

Regular items

- [3.] General exchange of views.
- [4.] Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
- [5.] Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
- [6.] Matters relating to:
 - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
- (b) 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.

Single issues/items for discussion

[7.] Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

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- [8.] Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment.
- [9.] Capacity-building in space law.
- [10.] General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures.

Items considered under workplans

[11.] General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

2011: Finalization, by a working group, of the report to the Legal Subcommittee

New items

[12.] Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-first session session.

2. Reconvening of the Working Groups of the Subcommittee in 2011

Working on Group on status and application of the Outer Space Treaties

The Working Group at its present session discussed and agreed to recommend the extension of its mandate for one more year and agreed to review the need to extend the mandate beyond 2011 at that session.

Working Group on definition and delimitation of outer space

The Working Group at its present session discussed and agreed that it should again be reconvened at the 2011 session of the Subcommittee.

Working Group on the general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and peaceful use of outer space

In accordance with the work plan under the agenda item [11], the Working Group should be reconvened to finalize its report to the Legal Subcommittee.

3. IISL/ECSL Symposium

The Subcommittee may wish to again invite the IISL/ECSL to organize a symposium at its 50th session.

4. Proposal for new agenda items

The following proposals for new items were retained by the sponsors for consideration by the Subcommittee at its present session:

(a) Review of the Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting (General Assembly

resolution 37/92, annex), with a view to transforming the text into a treaty in the future, proposed by Greece;

- (b) Review of existing norms of international law applicable to space debris, proposed by the Czech Republic and Greece;
- (c) Matters relating to the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space (Assembly resolution 41/65, annex), proposed by Chile and Colombia;
- (d) Review of the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, with a view to transforming them into a treaty in the future, proposed by Greece;
- (e) The appropriateness and desirability of drafting a universal comprehensive convention on international space law, proposed by China, Greece, the Russian Federation and Ukraine;
- (f) Legal implications of space applications for global climate change, proposed by Chile;
- (g) Regulation of the dissemination of space images through the world wide web, proposed by Saudi Arabia.