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Draft report

Chapter II

Addendum

C. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session

1. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, and thanked Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania) for his able leadership as Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

2. At the 538th meeting of the Committee, on 10 June, the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee made a statement on the work of the Subcommittee at its forty-second session.

3. The representatives of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, France, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States of America made statements under this item.

4. The Committee heard the following presentations under this agenda item:

(a) "Chinese meteorology satellites and their applications", by Lu Naimeng (China);

(b) "Tsunami disasters along the Andaman Sea, Thailand: using geo-informatics technology", by Somkiat Ariyapruchya and Supapis Pol-Ngam (Thailand).

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5. The Committee welcomed the special presentations made before the Subcommittee on various topics and noted that such presentations provided complementary technical content for the deliberations of the Subcommittee, timely and useful information on new programmes and developments in the space community and illustrative examples of space technology.

1. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

(a) Activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications

6. At the commencement of the deliberations on this item, the Expert on Space Applications briefed the Committee on the overall strategy for the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The strategy would concentrate on several priority thematic areas with specific topics addressing sustainable development for developing countries and establish objectives that could be reached in the short and medium term.

7. The Committee noted that the priority areas of the Programme were: (a) use of space technology for disaster management; (b) satellite communications for tele-education and telemedicine applications; (c) monitoring and protection of the environment; (d) management of natural resources; and (e) education and capacity-building, including research areas in basic space sciences and space law.

8. The Committee took note of the activities of the Programme carried out in 2004, as set out in the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 37-40). The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the manner in which the activities of the Programme had been implemented with the limited funds available. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that had sponsored the activities. The Committee noted with satisfaction that further progress was being made in the implementation of the activities of the Programme for 2005, as set out in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 41 and 42).

9. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Programme was helping developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in and benefit from the space activities contained in the various recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).[1]

10. The Committee once again expressed its concern that the financial resources available to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications remained limited and appealed to the donor community to support the Programme through voluntary contributions. The Committee held the view that the limited resources available to the United Nations should be focused on activities of the highest priority; it noted that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was the priority activity of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

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[1] See *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

(i) United Nations conferences, training courses and workshops

11. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Algeria, Australia, Sweden and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, affiliated to the United Nations, for co-sponsoring and hosting United Nations activities held between January and June 2005 (A/AC.105/848, paras. 41 and 42 (a) and (b)).

12. The Committee endorsed the workshops, training courses, symposiums and conferences planned for the remaining part of 2005, and expressed its appreciation to Austria, Argentina, China, Colombia, Japan, Nigeria, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the European Space Agency (ESA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) for co-sponsoring, hosting and supporting those activities (A/AC.105/848, para. 42 (c)-(l)).

13. The Committee endorsed the programme of workshops, training courses, symposiums and conferences planned to be held in 2006 for the benefit of developing countries, as follows:

(a) Two workshops on the use of space technology for disaster management;

(b) Two workshops on the application of space technology to environmental monitoring and natural resource management;

(c) One training course on satellite-aided search and rescue;

(d) One workshop on integrated space technology applications, with tele-health and landscape epidemiology using global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) technologies;

(e) One workshop on basic space science, focusing on the preparations for the International Heliophysical Year 2007;

(f) One United Nations/IAF workshop on space education and tele-health, to be held in Valencia, Spain;

(g) One workshop on space law;

(h) Training courses to be organized at the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations.

14. The Committee noted with appreciation that, since its forty-seventh session, additional resources for 2005 had been offered by various Member States and organizations.

15. The Committee noted with appreciation that the host countries of the regional centres for space science and technology education were providing significant financial and in-kind support to the centres.

(ii) Long-term fellowships for in-depth training

16. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of Italy, which, through the Politecnico di Torino and the Istituto Superiore Mario Boella and with the collaboration of the Istituto Elettrotecnico Nazionale Galileo Ferraris, had

offered five 12-month fellowships in 2004 for postgraduate studies in GNSS and related applications at the Politecnico di Torino in Turin, Italy.

17. The Committee noted that it was important to increase opportunities for in-depth education in all areas of space science, technology and applications through long-term fellowships and urged Member States to make such opportunities available at their relevant institutions.

(iii) Technical advisory services

18. The Committee noted with appreciation that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications had supported, collaborated with and provided assistance and technical advisory services to various Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of activities and projects promoting regional and global cooperation in space applications (A/AC.105/848, para. 40).

(b) International Space Information Service

19. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the publications entitled *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications*[2] and *Highlights in Space 2004*[3] had been issued.

20. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat had continued to enhance the International Space Information Service and the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.unoosa.org). The Committee also noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat was maintaining a website on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system (www.uncosa.unvienna.org).

(c) Regional and interregional cooperation

21. The Committee recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, had endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the regional centres on space science and technology education be established on the basis of affiliation with the United Nations as early as possible and that such affiliation would provide the centres with the necessary recognition and would strengthen the possibilities of attracting donors and of establishing academic relationships with national and international space-related institutions.

22. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications continued to emphasize cooperation with Member States at the regional and international levels aimed at supporting the centres. The Committee noted that all the regional centres had entered into an affiliation agreement with the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

23. The Committee also noted that the highlights of the activities of the regional centres supported under the Programme in 2004 and planned activities for 2005 and 2006 were included in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/840, annex III).

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[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.I.6.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.I.7.

24. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, which had been established in India in 1995, was celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2005. The Centre had pioneered the United Nations initiative of creating educational centres in developing countries. The Committee further noted that the Government of India had continuously provided strong support to the Centre over the past decade, including making the appropriate facilities and expertise available to it through the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Space. The Committee noted that, to date, the Centre had conducted 21 long-term postgraduate courses and 16 short-term programmes in the core disciplines, benefiting 46 countries and more than 600 scholars in the region of Asia and Pacific and beyond. Since 1999, the Centre had achieved the status of an institution of excellence.

25. The Committee noted that the campuses in Brazil and Mexico of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean had been established in 1997. The campus in Brazil benefited from the facilities made available to it by the National Institute for Space Research (INPE). Similar high-quality facilities were available on the campus in Mexico, which was supported by the National Institute of Astronomy, Optics and Electronics. The Brazil campus had already conducted two postgraduate courses, benefiting 25 scholars from 10 countries in the region, and four short-term programmes in remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS). The Mexico campus was planning to offer its first postgraduate programme in 2005.

26. The Committee noted that the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology—in French Language had been established in Morocco in 1998. Based in Rabat, the Centre was actively supported by important national institutions such as the Royal Centre for Remote Sensing, the Scientific Institute, the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, the National Institute of Telecommunications and the National Directorate of Meteorology. The Committee noted that the Centre had already carried out 6 long-term postgraduate courses, benefiting more than 80 scholars from 16 countries in the region, and 10 short-term programmes. In 2005, the Centre would also host two workshops sponsored by the United States and ESA. Both events would focus on natural resource management and environment monitoring.

27. The Committee noted that the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education—in English Language had been inaugurated in Nigeria in 1998. It operated under the auspices of the National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria and was located at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife. The Centre's facilities were mainly provided by departments of the University and the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys, which was also located on the campus of the University. The Centre had already offered six postgraduate courses and eight short-term programmes. About 30 scholars from nine countries in the region attended the long-term courses.

28. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, as noted by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/116, the Government of Ecuador had announced its intention to organize the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, which would be held in Quito in July 2006. The Committee further noted that the Government of Chile would organize a preparatory meeting for the Conference during the International Air and

Space Fair to be held in Santiago in March 2006. The Committee also noted the offer of the Government of Colombia to extend its support to those two events.

29. The Committee noted that the report of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas had been circulated as a conference room paper (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.7) and would be made available as document A/AC.105/L.261 following the forty-eighth session of the Committee.

30. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Programme on Space Applications was supporting UNESCO in its space education outreach activities.

31. The Committee noted that, beginning in 2006, the Programme was planning to provide greater support for pilot projects of national or regional significance in developing countries. The Programme currently supported the following activities, which would assist in defining models for future projects:

(a) Distributing Landsat data donated by the United States to African institutions initially and to the other regions at a later stage;

(b) Continuing to build upon the potential application and involvement of the Office in the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (International Charter "Space and Major Disasters");

(c) Joining the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (ISfTeH) as a partner and continuing to encourage activities and projects related to tele-health and public health preventative tele-education;

(d) Co-sponsoring a telemedicine project with India and the United States for the benefit of Afghanistan;

(e) Jointly conducting with Colombia, and with the support of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the development of a geostationary orbit occupancy analyser tool;

(f) Co-sponsoring follow-up projects with Austria, Switzerland and ESA on remote sensing in the service of sustainable development in mountain areas;

(g) Co-sponsoring projects on disaster management in South-East Asia with the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) of the Republic of Korea.

The Committee further noted that the Programme welcomed co-sponsors for future projects that benefited developing countries.

(d) International Satellite System for Search and Rescue

32. The Committee recalled that, at its forty-fourth session, it had agreed that a report on the activities of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT) should be considered annually by the Committee as part of its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and that member States should report on their activities regarding COSPAS-SARSAT.[4]

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[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/56/20 and Corr.1), para. 220.

33. The Committee noted with satisfaction that COSPAS-SARSAT, a cooperative venture initiated in the late 1970s, involving Canada, France, the Russian Federation and the United States, was using space technology to assist aviators and mariners in distress around the globe. Since 1982, COSPAS-SARSAT had introduced analogue and digital emergency beacons worldwide. COSPAS-SARSAT had expanded its space segment to include ad hoc payloads on geostationary and low-Earth orbit satellites that currently provided alert signals.

34. The Committee noted with satisfaction that COSPAS-SARSAT currently had 37 member States and that its members were from every continent. Those States had helped to deploy a robust ground network and alert data distribution system. In 2004, COSPAS-SARSAT helped save 1,465 lives in 441 distress incidents or accidents. Since 1982, COSPAS-SARSAT had assisted in the rescue of over 18,000 persons in more than 5,000 distress incidents or accidents.

35. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations/Australia Training Course on Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue had been held in Canberra, A.C.T., from 14 to 18 March 2005.

2. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

36. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued its consideration of matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 74-84).

37. The Committee stressed the importance of remote sensing technology for sustainable development and emphasized, in that connection, the importance of providing non-discriminatory access to state-of-the-art remote sensing data and to derived information at a reasonable cost and in a timely manner.

38. The Committee noted that technological progress and applications in the area of Earth observation satellites were significant for developing countries because of their potential to promote sustainable development.

39. The Committee underlined the importance of building capacity in the adoption and use of remote sensing technology, in particular to meet the needs of developing countries.

40. The Committee also highlighted the importance of international cooperation among member States in the use of remote sensing satellites, in particular by sharing experience and technologies.

3. Space debris

41. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the agenda item on space debris, in accordance with the work plan adopted at its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, para. 130). The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee on space debris, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 85-107).

42. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, had reconvened a working group to consider, as necessary, the proposals of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) on space debris mitigation and any related comments that might be received.

43. The Committee agreed with the Subcommittee that consideration of space debris was important, that international cooperation was needed to develop more appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the potential impact of space debris on future space missions and that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/116, Member States, in particular spacefaring countries, should pay more attention to the problem of the collision of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources on board, with space debris and to other aspects of space debris, as well as its re-entry into the atmosphere (A/AC.105/848, para. 90).

44. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Working Group on Space Debris had agreed to develop a document on space debris mitigation, which, among other considerations, would use, as a basis, the technical content of the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/L.260), would not be more technically stringent than the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines, would not be legally binding under international law and would take into consideration the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space. The Committee also noted the agreement of the Working Group that the Subcommittee would continue to consider the agenda item on space debris in accordance with a new multi-year work plan, covering the period from 2005 to 2007 (A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 6).

45. The view was expressed that, while the voluntary guidelines being formulated by the Subcommittee would represent a significant advance, those guidelines would not cover all debris-producing situations and would accordingly need to be kept under consideration.

46. The view was expressed that the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines could be endorsed by the Subcommittee as the technical background to the document on space debris mitigation being developed in the framework of the Working Group on Space Debris.

47. The view was expressed that the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines were solid, technically based measures for any nation to adopt and implement in its national space activities.

48. The Committee noted that the United States had endorsed the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines and that its domestic agencies were implementing debris mitigation practices consistent with them. The Committee also noted that China and Malaysia were using the space debris mitigation guidelines as their reference in developing a national regulatory and licensing framework.

49. Some delegations were of the view that the future use of outer space depended on keeping orbital debris to manageable levels and that orbital debris in outer space was a prime threat to the unimpeded operation of space assets and therefore to the continued access of the global community to the benefits of space.

50. The view was expressed that, in resolving the problem of space debris, special emphasis should be placed on the promotion of international cooperation, including the transfer of relevant technology to non-spacefaring countries, with a view to

expanding appropriate and systematic strategies to minimize their impact upon future space missions.

51. The view was expressed that awareness of the potential of debris to render space unusable had tempered but not halted the consideration of space-based weapons. That delegation reiterated its call for the negotiation of a multilateral agreement banning all space-based weapons.

52. At the […] and […] meetings, on […] and […] June, the Chairman of the Working Group on Space Debris, Claudio Portelli (Italy), reported on the work of the intersessional meeting held by the Working Group during the forty-eighth session of the Committee in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session.

53. The Committee noted that, during its intersessional meeting, the Working Group had considered the proposals submitted by France, Germany, India, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States and ESA for a document on space debris mitigation to be developed by the Working Group in accordance with its new multi-year work plan (see A/AC.105/2005/CRP.8 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

54. The Committee noted that during its intersessional meeting the Working Group had begun its work on drafting a document on space debris mitigation, based on the proposals submitted. It also noted that the preliminary draft of that document (see A/AC.105/2005/CRP.18) would be reviewed by the Working Group at the forty-third session of the Subcommittee in accordance with the multi-year workplan.

4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

55. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the item relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 108-125).

56. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Subcommittee had reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space during the forty-second session of the Subcommittee under the acting chairmanship of Alice Caponiti (United States). The Committee also noted with satisfaction that the Working Group had made significant progress and had carried out successful and detailed work in identifying and developing potential implementation options for establishing an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable space nuclear power source applications.

57. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the multi-year work plan, adopted at the fortieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2003, had been amended and extended up to 2007 during the forty-second session of the Subcommittee in order to allow for the organization and holding of a joint, technical workshop with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the objective, scope and general attributes of a potential technical safety standard for nuclear

power sources in outer space, to be held during the forty-third session of the Subcommittee, in February 2006.

58. The view was expressed that the workshop would assist in determining the way to further proceed in the efforts already undertaken with a view to developing an international framework for the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space and that the intersessional meeting of the Working Group being held during the forty-eighth session of the Committee would lay the essential groundwork for the organization of the workshop.

59. The view was expressed that the testing, deployment and use of space weapons would create an environment where such weapons would become a threat and target to global security and that States possessing nuclear weapons as well as ballistic missiles could explode a nuclear weapon in space that could cause uncontrolled damage to satellites.

60. The view was expressed that the use of nuclear power sources in outer space or in orbit was inappropriate and should therefore be limited to exceptional cases only.

61. The view was expressed that the Committee should cooperate in a most effective way with IAEA concerning the use of nuclear power sources, in order to avoid an unreasonable extension of their joint work as a result of their different working methods. That delegation was of the view that, in order to facilitate the selection of the implementation option concerning future cooperation between IAEA and the Committee, the first option, which included close cooperation and work between those two bodies, would be the most appropriate, taking into account their respective competences and procedures.

62. The view was expressed that the issue regarding the use of nuclear power sources in outer space was a timely and topical issue in view of the serious problems that could be caused to the environment and that it was important for the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee to discuss the matter. That delegation expressed concern about the meetings of the Working Group being held in parallel with the plenary sessions of the Committee, as developing countries could not support the presence of more than one or two delegates to participate in simultaneous meetings.

63. The view was expressed that the use of nuclear power sources in outer space should be diminished and focused on the use of space for civil applications, thus contributing to human security, prosperity and development, in particular in the fields of health, protection of the environment and disaster mitigation on Earth.

64. At the 543rd meeting, on 14 June, the Chairman of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, Sam Harbison (United Kingdom), reported on the progress made by the Working Group during the intersessional meetings. At the […] meeting, on […] June, the Acting Chairperson, Alice Caponiti, reported on the results of the intersessional meetings of the Working Group at the current session of the Committee.

65. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, as a result of the work conducted by the Working Group, a preliminary list of potential objectives and topics and a provisional agenda for the above-mentioned workshop had been finalized. The

Committee endorsed the preliminary list of potential objectives and topics and a provisional agenda for the workshop (A/AC.105/L.260).

66. The Committee agreed that the Working Group should continue its intersessional work, by electronic means, in close cooperation with IAEA and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to finalizing the organizational and logistical aspects and, as necessary, adjusting the indicative schedule of work for the workshop, which is scheduled to be held during the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

5. Space-system-based telemedicine

67. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had considered an item on space-system-based telemedicine under the three-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 126-138).

68. The Committee noted the contribution of telemedicine to improving public health, especially in rural areas, as well as to meeting goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals, calling for combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The Committee further noted that some States were making full use of space capabilities to improve their public health services, while others were initiating pilot projects in telemedicine. The Committee noted with appreciation the strong interest of the international community in sharing and learning from the work currently being done in telemedicine. The Committee also noted the existing concern regarding legal and regulatory barriers relating to the application of telemedicine, the high cost of the relevant biomedical equipment and software, and the call to provide more opportunities for developing countries to enable them to derive maximum benefits from space-system-based telemedicine.

6. Near-Earth objects

69. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had considered an item on near-Earth objects under the three-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 139-153).

7. Space-system-based disaster management support

70. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had considered the agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support in accordance with the three-year work plan adopted at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 18). The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as contained in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/840, paras. 154-173).

71. The Committee conveyed its condolences to the States that had suffered from the impact of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 and its aftermath.

72. The Committee also conveyed its condolences to the Government and people of Chile in connection with the major earthquake that had shaken the north of their country on 14 June 2005.

73. The Committee noted that the tragic earthquake and tsunami disaster that had afflicted countries in the Indian Ocean region on 26 December 2004 and had resulted in the loss of approximately 230,000 lives had highlighted the importance and need for a bigger and more efficient role for space technology in the prediction, monitoring and mitigation of natural disasters.

74. The Committee noted that remote sensing imagery and satellite-based communications, including telemedicine services, were used in the disaster relief operations following the Indian Ocean region tsunami.

75. The Committee noted that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders' meeting on the aftermath of the tsunami disaster, held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005, had adopted a declaration on action to strengthen emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004. Among other things, the declaration stated the commitment of the leaders and participants to the establishment of a regional early warning system.

76. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a tsunami detection outpost had been established in the context of the National Disaster Warning Centre in Thailand. The outpost was linked by satellite transmission receivers.

77. The Committee noted with satisfaction that several States and organizations had effectively used space technology in actively providing assistance for disaster forecasting, monitoring and assessment.

78. The view was expressed that, while space technology had already proved its contribution to the overall mitigation of the effects of natural disasters, mechanisms for better warning, monitoring and prediction should be improved and rendered more efficient. This would ensure a better preparedness for responding to major natural disasters.

79. The view was expressed that, in considering the creation of an international entity to coordinate space-based services for use in disaster management, the Committee could consider extending the scope of responsibility of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to include such a coordinating entity. That delegation was of the view that, as a United Nations entity, the Office had the qualifications to undertake such a function and that this approach, with a small increase in resources, would be more cost-effective than setting up a new entity.

80. The view was expressed that the proposal to establish such a coordination entity was the first concrete action to be taken by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the recommendation of UNISPACE III. That delegation was of the view that such an entity should be institutionalized to assume responsibility for coordinating and implementing an integrated operational space-based system to manage and mitigate natural disasters globally.

81. The view was expressed that the proposed disaster management international space coordination entity would fill the gaps in the coordination of space-based services for the management of natural disasters and would complement the

International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" for the phases of prevention and rehabilitation. That delegation was of the view that it would be counter-productive to create a new organization in a sector with numerous international operators and that it would be preferable to set up the entity within the United Nations system or as part of an existing international organization.

8. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

82. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered the agenda item on the geostationary orbit and space communications as a single issue/item for discussion. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 174-180).

83. Some delegations reiterated the view that the geostationary orbit was a scarce natural resource, which ran the risk of becoming saturated. Those delegations considered that the exploitation of the geostationary orbit should be rationalized and made available to all countries, in particular to developing countries, thus giving them the opportunity to have access to the geostationary orbit under equitable conditions. The needs and interests of developing countries, the geographical position of certain countries and the process followed by ITU should also be taken into account.

84. Some delegations referred to the consensus reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session and stated that, given the special characteristics of the geostationary orbit, the latter should be considered an integral part of outer space. Therefore, in the view of those delegations, the geostationary orbit should be governed by a special regime.

85. The Committee noted with interest that the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, in 2005, had heard a presentation made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the pro tempore secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, entitled "Geostationary orbit analyser tool", illustrating the non-homogeneous use of the orbit-spectrum resources, which increased the saturation risk for some regions.

9. Support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year

86. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had considered an agenda item on support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year as a single issue/item for discussion. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 181-192).

87. The Committee noted that International Heliophysical Year 2007 would be an international endeavour, with States from every region of the world planning to host instrument arrays, provide scientific investigators or offer supporting space

missions. The Committee further noted that International Heliophysical Year 2007 would serve to focus worldwide attention on the importance of international cooperation in research activities in the field of solar-terrestrial physics.

10. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

88. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had considered proposals for a draft provisional agenda for its forty-third session. The Subcommittee had endorsed the recommendations of its Working Group of the Whole concerning the draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, paras. 193-195 and annex I).

89. The Committee recalled its recommendation, made at its forty-seventh session, to continue the practice of alternating each year the organization of the symposium by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and IAF and the symposium to strengthen partnership with industry. The Committee endorsed the agreement of the Subcommittee that in 2006 the industry symposium would be held and the symposium organized by COSPAR and IAF would be suspended (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 24).

90. The Committee endorsed the recommendation that the symposium should address synthetic aperture radar missions and their applications. The Committee also endorsed the agreement of the Subcommittee that the symposium should be held on the afternoon of the first day of the forty-third session and that the full time available to the Subcommittee on that afternoon should be used for the symposium (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 25).

91. The Committee endorsed the recommendation that the Subcommittee should continue to consider the item on space debris in accordance with the new multi-year work plan agreed upon by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, para. 194, annex I, para. 18, and annex II, para. 6).

92. The Committee endorsed the recommendation that the Subcommittee should continue to consider the item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in accordance with the three-year work plan as amended and agreed upon by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, para. 194, annex I, para. 19, and annex III, para. 8).

93. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee to amend the work plan of the agenda item on near-Earth objects for the years 2006 and 2007 (A/AC.105/848, para. 194 and annex I, para. 20).

94. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee to amend the work plan of the agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support for the year 2006 (A/AC.105/848, para. 194 and annex I, para. 21).

95. The Committee endorsed the recommendation that the Subcommittee, in 2006, should begin consideration of a new agenda item on International Heliophysical Year 2007 in accordance with the multi-year work plan agreed upon by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 22).

96. On the basis of the deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-second session, the Committee agreed on the following draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Subcommittee:

1. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities.

2. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

3. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

4. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.

5. Items to be considered under work plans:

   (a) Space debris;

   (Work for 2006 as reflected in the multi-year work plan in document A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 6)

   (b) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

   (Work for 2006 as reflected in document A/AC.105/848, annex III, para. 8)

   (c) Space-system-based telemedicine;

   (Work for 2006 as reflected in the multi-year work plan contained in document A/58/20, para. 138)

   (d) Near-Earth objects;

   (Work for 2006 as reflected in document A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 20)

   (e) Space-system-based disaster management support;

   (Work for 2006 as reflected in document A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 21)

   (f) International Heliophysical Year 2007.

   (Work for 2006 as reflected in document A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 22)

6. Single issue/item for discussion. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

7. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, including identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under multi-year work plans.

8. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

D. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session

97. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/850), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in resolution 59/116, and thanked Sergio Marchisio (Italy) for his able leadership as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee.

98. At the 540th meeting, on 13 June, the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee made a statement on the work of the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session.

99. The representatives of Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, India, Italy, Malaysia, Nigeria and the United States made statements under this item.

1. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

100. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had considered the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space as a regular item. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, paras. 24-38).

101. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee had reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, of which the chairman would be elected at a later date. The Committee further noted that the Subcommittee had subsequently agreed to suspend the Working Group and to reconvene it at the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, in 2006, and to review at that session the need to extend its mandate beyond that session.

102. The Committee welcomed the information provided by some delegations on the current status of the five United Nations treaties on outer space in their respective States and on the further action that those States intended to take in order to accede to or ratify those treaties. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the reports on the progress made by member States in developing their national space law.

103. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent informational material provided on national space legislation and international treaties, as well as for the informative website concerning the work of the Committee and its subcommittees.

104. The Committee agreed that member States should regularly provide the Office for Outer Space Affairs with information on their national space legislation and policy in order for the Office to maintain an up-to-date database on that subject.

105. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations treaties on outer space had established a comprehensive legal framework that encouraged the exploration of outer space and supported increasingly complex activities in outer space by both government and private entities, with benefits to both spacefaring and non-spacefaring nations. Those delegations advocated further adherence to the outer space treaties.

106. Other delegations expressed the view that, owing to developments in space activities, such as the commercialization of space and the involvement of the private sector, there was a need to consider a new, comprehensive convention on outer space law to further strengthen the international legal regime covering outer space activities. Those delegations were of the view that a single, comprehensive convention could regulate all aspects of outer space activities.

107. The view was expressed that entertaining the possibility of negotiating a new, comprehensive space law instrument could only serve to undermine the principles of the existing space law regime.

108. The view was expressed that, as the United Nations treaties on outer space had evolved through consensus and enjoyed acceptance by a large number of States, consideration by the Subcommittee of the status and application of those treaties was significant and would encourage adherence to the treaties by States that had not yet become parties to them.

109. The view was expressed that, although the current international legal framework was based on agreements reached by consensus, there was a need for an overhaul of the treaties on outer space in order to remain relevant and current with the developments taking place on the international agenda.

110. The view was expressed that an overhaul of the treaties on outer space was not necessary, but that a review involving modifications to the treaties was necessary. That delegation was of the view that a balance needed to be reflected in the treaties between public international law and the realities of private law in current space activities.

111. Some delegations expressed the view that the working paper submitted by a number of States, entitled "Questionnaire on possible options for future development of international space law", to be discussed by the Working Group on the agenda item at the next session of the Legal Subcommittee was of particular interest and could assist the Legal Subcommittee in reaching constructive conclusions about the future orientation of its work.

112. The view was expressed that the mandate of the Working Group on the agenda item should be extended beyond the next session of the Legal Subcommittee, as such action would be favourable to encouraging further adherence to the treaties on outer space.

113. The Committee noted with appreciation that a workshop on space law hosted by the Government of Brazil and the Associação Brasileira de Direito Aeronáutico e Espacial had been held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 25 November 2004. The Committee welcomed the announcement that the next workshop on space law would be hosted by the Government of Nigeria in November 2005.

2. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

114. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had considered information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law as a regular item. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, paras. 39-53).

115. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Legal Subcommittee had been provided with reports from various international organizations on their activities relating to space law and agreed that international organizations should again be invited by the Secretariat to provide reports to the Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session, in 2006.

116. The Committee noted that, in order to enhance the participation of organizations of the United Nations system in the work of the Committee and its Subcommittees, those organizations could submit written reports, when requested, on matters related to specific agenda items, as well as information on their activities, when resource limitations prevented their participation in the meetings.

117. The Committee noted the decision of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) of UNESCO not to draw up a declaration of ethical principles, but rather to emphasize and promote awareness of moral and ethical issues raised by space activities in the framework of reinforced international cooperation. The decision had been adopted by COMEST at its fourth ordinary session, held in Bangkok in March 2005, and would be submitted to the General Assembly of UNESCO for its consideration in late 2005.

118. The Committee also noted that in 2004 a conference on the ethical and legal framework for astronaut activities on the International Space Station had been held in Paris and that a conference on the legal and ethical framework for the exploration of the solar system, organized jointly by UNESCO and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL), was planned for 2006.

119. The view was expressed that close interaction between space law and space ethics should be maintained and that close cooperation between UNESCO and the Committee, in particular its Legal Subcommittee, should be promoted.

3. Matters relating to: (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space; and (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

120. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had continued to consider as a regular item matters relating to (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space; and (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. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, paras. 54-70).

121. The Committee noted that the Working Group on this item had been re-established under the chairmanship of José Monserrat Filho (Brazil) to consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session and endorsed by the Committee at its forty-third session.

122. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group as contained in paragraphs 5 (a)-(c) and (e) of its report (A/AC.105/850, annex I) and approved by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, para. 68).

123. The Committee agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should be invited to consider the possibility of preparing a report on the technical characteristics of aerospace objects in the light of the current level of technological advancement and possible developments in the foreseeable future.

124. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource with sui generis characteristics that risked saturation and that equitable access to it should therefore be guaranteed for all States, taking into account in particular the needs of developing countries and the geographical position of certain countries.

125. Some delegations expressed the view that the exploitation of the geostationary orbit, which was a limited natural resource, should, in addition to being rational, be made available to all countries, irrespective of their current technical capacities, thereby providing them with the possibility of having access to the orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries, as well as the geographical position of certain countries, with the support of ITU.

126. Some delegations expressed their satisfaction with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session (see A/AC.105/738, annex III) to the effect that coordination among countries aimed at the utilization of the geostationary orbit should be carried out in an equitable manner and in conformity with the ITU Radio Regulations.

127. The view was expressed that, in order for the agreement of the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session to be implemented, the participation of and effective implementation by ITU would be necessary. For that purpose, the relationship between ITU and the Committee should become closer and be organized in such a manner that agreements reached by the Committee could be carried out effectively.

128. The view was expressed that despite the difficulties in reaching consensus on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space, member States should continue consultations on the item with a view to maintaining peace and security in outer space and promoting its peaceful use.

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

129. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space as a single issue/item for discussion.

130. The Committee noted that an exchange of views had taken place in the Legal Subcommittee on the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, paras. 71-81), in which reference was made to the work currently being undertaken by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under the item entitled “Use of nuclear power sources in outer space”.

5. Examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, opened for signature at Cape Town, South Africa, on 16 November 2001

131. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had considered a single issue/item for discussion entitled "Examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, opened for signature at Cape Town, South Africa, on 16 November 2001". The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, paras. 82-117).

132. The Committee noted that, in accordance with resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had considered two sub-items under that agenda item:

(a) Considerations relating to the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the future protocol;

(b) Considerations relating to the relationship between the terms of the future protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regime applicable to outer space.

133. The Committee noted that, in accordance with resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had reconvened its Working Group on the item, under the chairmanship of Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic).

134. The Committee noted with appreciation the exceptional efforts of Mr. Kopal, as Chairman of the Working Group, and of René Lefeber (Netherlands), who acted as coordinator of the intersessional consultations on the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the future protocol and prepared the draft report, in dealing with such complex issues.

135. The Committee noted that the Legal Subcommittee had considered the question of the appropriateness of the United Nations serving as the supervisory authority under the future protocol and that consensus regarding that critical question could not be reached.

136. The Committee noted that the third session of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) committee of governmental experts for the consideration of the preliminary draft protocol would be held in Rome later in 2005 and that member States of the Committee would be invited to attend that session.

137. Some delegations expressed the view that acceptance by the United Nations or any of its offices of the role of supervisory authority under the future protocol was inappropriate and in conflict with the fundamental mandate of the United Nations.

138. The view was expressed that the future protocol itself was not technically and logically tenable for the aims and purpose proposed.

139. Some delegations expressed the view that there were no legal barriers to the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the future protocol.

140. Some delegations expressed the view that, with regard to the relationship between the future protocol and the legal regime on outer space, the principles of public international law contained in the outer space treaties should prevail.

141. The view was expressed that a thorough analysis needed to be undertaken of the compatibility between the private law and the public international law implications of the future protocol, paying careful attention to the possible contradictions and conflicts that might arise in practice. That delegation expressed the view that the international responsibility of States needed to be clearly defined when non-governmental entities of those States were engaged in commercial activities in space, as well as the relationship between the rights and obligations of States whose national entities were engaged as creditors.

142. The view was expressed that the level of interest in the draft space assets protocol was indicative of the importance attached to the formulation of a legal instrument able to facilitate the private financing of space activities to the benefit of commercial, as well as public, space applications.

143. Some delegations expressed the view that it would be a great loss if this opportunity to contribute to the development of a new legal instrument, and thus to prove the usefulness of the Subcommittee in the progressive development of space law, was not pursued. Those delegations were of the view that that was an important opportunity to facilitate the expansion of the commercial space sector, as well as for a broad range of States to benefit from such expansion. Those delegations supported the continued inclusion of the item, with its reformulated title, on the agenda of the Subcommittee for its forty-fifth session, in 2006.

144. The view was expressed that the Working Paper submitted by 10 States, including a draft resolution for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly on the assumption by the United Nations of the function of supervisory authority under the future protocol (A/AC.105/C.2/L.258), was ready for further consideration by the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee and eventually the Assembly.

145. The view was expressed that it was premature to discuss the submission of a draft resolution to the General Assembly and that the Legal Subcommittee had agreed to take up the item with a modified title at its forty-fifth session. That delegation was of the view that the Subcommittee should be kept abreast of all developments in relation to the future protocol.

146. The view was expressed that a precondition to the United Nations assuming the functions of supervisory authority would be that the Organization should not be responsible for any cost associated with exercising those functions and that it should enjoy immunity from liability for damages.

147. The view was expressed that those delegations which had objected to the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the future protocol had not offered a detailed analysis of viable options. That delegation expressed the view that it would expect those delegations to present other options in detail at the third session of the Unidroit committee of governmental experts for the consideration of the preliminary draft protocol in Rome later in 2005.

148. The view was expressed that the functions of the supervisory authority should be entrusted to an existing international organization such as ITU or to an international ad hoc entity set up by the States parties to the Convention and the future protocol.

6. Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects

149. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had considered the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, paras. 118-131).

150. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee had established, in accordance with the work plan, a new working group on the item under the chairmanship of Niklas Hedman (Sweden).

151. The Committee noted that the background paper prepared by the Secretariat, entitled "Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.255 and Corr.1 and 2), had made a valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group on the Practice of States in Registering Space Objects under the item.

152. The Committee agreed that consideration of the agenda item had provided an important opportunity for the Legal Subcommittee to exchange useful information on States' practices and laws and to enhance the application of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex), through the establishment of harmonized common practices in registering space objects.

153. The Committee noted that some Member States, while not party to the Registration Convention, had set up a national register or provided information on a voluntary basis in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961.

154. The Committee agreed that, in 2006, the Working Group could, on the basis of the background paper prepared by the Secretariat and the discussions held at the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, focus on the following:

(a) Harmonization of practices (administrative and practical);

(b) Non-registration of space objects;

(c) Practice with regard to transfer of ownership of space objects in orbit;

(d) Practice with regard to registration/non-registration of foreign space objects.

155. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group as contained in paragraphs 12-15 of its report (A/AC.105/850, annex III) and approved by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, para. 130).

156. The view was expressed that, at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group had not been afforded sufficient time to consider the item properly. That delegation was of the view that the secretariat should assess how best to maximize the usage of time by the Subcommittee, including giving consideration to the possibility of Working Group meetings in parallel to the plenary meetings of the Subcommittee.

7. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee

157. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee had considered an item entitled "Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session".

158. The Committee noted that an exchange of views had taken place in the Legal Subcommittee on numerous proposals by member States for new agenda items and that agreement had been reached on a proposal to the Committee for the agenda of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, in 2006, as reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 132-149).

159. The Committee endorsed the agreement of the Subcommittee to review at its forty-fifth session the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space beyond that session of the Subcommittee.

160. Some delegations stressed the importance of including new items on the agenda of the Subcommittee to support the continuous development of international space law.

161. The view was expressed that the Subcommittee and the Committee should demonstrate a greater political will in order to include additional items that were essential for the progressive development of space law.

162. Some delegations expressed the view that a flexible approach by the Subcommittee was necessary when considering the inclusion of new items on its agenda, taking into particular account the needs of the developing countries.

163. On the basis of the deliberations of the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, the Committee agreed on the following draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, in 2006:

Regular items

1. General exchange of views.
2. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
3. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law.
4. 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

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

6. 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.

Items considered under work plans

7. Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects.

(2006: Identification by the Working Group on the Practice of States in Registering Space Objects of common practices and drafting of recommendations for enhancing adherence to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.)

New item

8. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session.