

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

*Unedited transcript*

668<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Wednesday, 10 April 2002, 10 a.m.

Vienna

*Chairman:* Mr. Kopal (Czech Republic)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.18 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Distinguished delegates, the meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will start its work.

**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 Telecommunications Union (agenda item 6)**

Distinguished delegates, we shall now continue consideration of item 6, Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. I would recall for the information of delegations that it is my intention to conclude substantive deliberation of this item in the plenary at this morning's meeting. So this is the last opportunity to make statements on this issue in the plenary of the Subcommittee.

I do not have any speakers inscribed on the list of speakers for this morning's session. Is there any delegation wishing to speak on item 6 at this time?

Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Y. M. KOLOSOV** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have asked for the floor, not on a substantive matter but on a matter relating to procedure. Our delegation has prepared a comparative table which demonstrates the differences between the

legal regime as it applies to air space, both national and international, and the legal regime of outer space. There are 14 major differences there.

Our delegation would like to either attach this document to the questionnaire on space systems or, if that fails to meet with the Subcommittee's approval, to publish this document as a CRP paper. Since we are not yet ready to submit it to the Secretariat and you are already completing the discussion on this item of the agenda, we wanted you to take note of the fact that we are preparing this kind of action.

**The CHAIRMAN** (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you distinguished representative of the Russian Federation for this information and for letting us know of your intent to prepare a comparative table of two legal regimes for air space and outer space respectively. I think you can. It is up to you really. You can do either one thing or the other. If possible, we would like to see this document submitted to the Working Group Secretariat or, if you are not quite ready yet, feel free to distribute it as a CRP paper as you suggested, either way is good. Thank you.

(*Continued in English*) Is there any other delegation wishing to speak on item 6, it means matters relating to the definition and delimitation and the geostationary orbit. I recognize the distinguished observer for the International Astronautical Federation.

**Mr. P. VAN FENEMA** (International Astronautical Federation): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yesterday's announcement from Down Under, from Australia, under this item, was probably one of the most interesting pieces of information given during that day, if not during the session of the Legal Subcommittee up till that moment.

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, Translation and Editorial Service, Room D0708, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.

I refer to the draft amendment of the Australian Space Activities Act of 1998 which will introduce 100 kilometre high border above which, for the purposes of the application of that Act, outer space begins, at least that is how I understand the statement made.

Though it would seem to be not more than a unilateral national measure taken for internal purposes only, it is, or at least it promises to be more than that. First and foremost, it is, as far as I know, the very first time that a State actually takes such a decision establishing for itself a clear geographical starting point for the application of its national space legislation. That practical consideration, as opposed to one of legal principle, has not only an appealing simplicity, indeed why not make clear to which precise environment your specific laws apply, but it also implies a test of its validity or feasibility in practice, a test which may yield interesting cases the Australian Government will have to take decisions on. For instance, with respect to own or foreign satellites or sounding rockets moving below the 100 kilometre border, if such instruments exist. Decisions which may lead to further refinement or adaptation of the new criteria. Or it may very well be that no such test will actually materialize at all. In both cases, this novel fact will teach the community of States something valuable, something that may induce them to follow suit.

Imagine five space nations within a few years, having introduced similar legislation without challenge or dispute as to its validity and you may begin to think about a phenomenon relevant in international law called States practice. And all this, simply based on practical considerations of individual States intent on accurately identifying the scope of application of their national space acts. I think we should applaud this initiative and ask the Australian Government to keep the space law community informed about the practical application, the challenges and the decisions taken with respect to this specific amendment of their Space Activities Act of 1998.

The International Institute of Space Law of the International Astronautical Federation, at least looks forward with great interest to the discussions this initiative may stimulate under item 6, definition and delimitation of outer space. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much distinguished observer for the International Astronautical Federation, Dr. Van Fenema, for your intervention by which you drew our attention to some aspects of the Australian announcement of preparation of an Act, I think it is still a Bill, which is considered

by the Australian or which has to be considered by the Australian Parliament, but thank you very much.

I now recognize the distinguished representative of Australia, wishing to speak.

**Ms. S. PAYMAN** (Australia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Australian delegation would like to thank the representative of the IAF for his kind words. I do need to point out on behalf of the Australian delegation though that it was clear in our statement that there is no intention in passing this Bill to actually define outer space. It is for the purposes of Australia not wanting to regulate all launch activities, so it is for the purposes of our licensing regime that a mechanism was needed in order to determine what launches would or would not be licensed. To take that any further and to equate that with a former State practice, I think, is taking a bit too far. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Australia for your clarification.

I recognize, once again, the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Y. M. KOLOSOV** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This time I am going to make a substantive not a procedural comment.

The actions currently undertaken by Australia are specifically the kind of thing that is dangerous and our delegation has emphasized that danger and a number of statements were made on this agenda item which we have been talking about for decades now. By analogy with maritime law, there is a risk of the same thing happening in outer space law as the same that happened with regard to maritime law. The dimensions of territorial waters could not be established in 1956 or 1961, only in 1992 did the States succeed in establishing the dimensions of territorial waters. Prior to that, States established and defined that by their domestic law and for some countries it reached 300 maritime miles. If this kind of practice of establishing jurisdiction or sovereignty up to a certain altitude is applied to outer space by other States, you can imagine what kind of difficulties practical astronautics will run into. *Inter alia*, for the countries that are just setting up or planning to create aerospace objects, I think the view of the distinguished representative of the IAF and his assertion to the effect that the first step has been made and the five outer space powers can follow suit, I think that is wrong. I do not think we should encourage space powers to do that. The rules should be the same and the same

altitude should apply for the entire international community.

**The CHAIRMAN** (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you esteemed representative of the Russian Federation. I would like to reiterate something that the distinguished representative of Australia has already said. This applies to a very specific objective only. This step was made with a very specific objective in mind and the boundary that will be established, the altitude that will be defined by Australian law, actually is the same as the one proposed by the Russian Federation in its position regarding the delimitation of outer space.

(*Continued in English*) Distinguished representatives, I do not have any other speaker on the list of speakers for this morning. Is there any other speaker wishing to take the floor now on item 6 of our agenda?

I see none and, therefore, I would propose that we now suspend consideration of item 6, Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, until later this week when we shall consider the report of the Working Group on this item.

Seeing no objection, *it is so decided.*

**Consideration of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (opened to signature in Cape Town on 16 November 2001) and the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets (agenda item 8)**

Distinguished delegates, we shall now continue our consideration of agenda item 8, Consideration of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (opened to signature in Cape Town on 16 November 2001) and the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets.

I have two speakers on my list of speakers for this morning's session. The first one is the distinguished representative of the Netherlands, to whom I give the floor.

**Mr. J. G. LAMMERS** (Netherlands): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Like previous speakers on this item before me, I would also like to thank the Governments of France and Italy for having hosted the meetings of the consultative mechanism in Paris and Rome.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the relationship of the proposed new international regime to the existing body of space law, the Netherlands shares the view of the UNIDROIT Space Working Group that there is no inconsistencies between the UNIDROIT Convention and the current, I emphasize current, draft of the Space Assets Protocol, on the one hand, and the existing international space law, on the other. The operation of the UNIDROIT Convention and the Space Assets Protocol will not undermine, in our view, or compromise existing principles of international space law. However, the development of commercial activities in outer space, which these instruments will facilitate, will give rise to further questioning of existing principles of international space law. In particular, the imposition of responsibility and liability on the launching State is likely to be questioned more and more, as a result of the increase of commercial activities in outer space, in particular those, because such increase is likely to produce more transfers of ownership and control of space objects between persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of different States.

Mr. Chairman, in our view, no measures are required to ensure that existing principles of space law are followed in the practical application of the UNIDROIT Convention and the Space Assets Protocol. However, in order to avoid jurisdiction anomalies and undesirable liabilities following the transfer of the control of a space object between persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of different States, it will be desirable to impose responsibility on other States and liability on other States or persons. The launching State may achieve this by (a) requiring its consent for the transfer of control of a space object to a person outside its jurisdiction, or (b) establishing a right of recourse against the person who assumes control over the space object.

If the launching States subjects the transfer of control over a space object to a person outside its jurisdiction to its consent, this is likely to limit the ability of the UNIDROIT Convention and the Space Assets Protocol to facilitate the development of commercial activities in outer space, we are well aware of that.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the nature and framework of the international registration system, its supervisory authority and registrar, the Netherlands believes that, in the light of the functions of the supervisory authority, mentioned in Article 17 of the Convention, it would not be appropriate if the supervisory authority would be subject to the jurisdiction of a State. Therefore, those functions

should be governed by public international law and the function of supervisory authority be the responsibility of an international organization.

In the light of the functions of the registrar and the established system of supervision, these functions could be governed by either public international law or private law. The Netherlands would welcome it if an established international organization offers itself to become the supervisory authority. As for the function of the registrar, the Netherlands can accept that function to be performed by either an established international organization, a new international organization or a non-governmental organization.

In the view of the Netherlands, the United Nations would certainly be a competent and appropriate entity to fulfil the function of supervisory authority. In that case, the Space Assets Protocol should designate the Secretary-General to carry out this function, who may give a mandate to the Office for Outer Space Affairs to carry it out in its name.

The Netherlands is also aware of the fact that further research will have to be undertaken to determine required human and financial resources for the carrying out of the functions of the supervisory authority and the registrar.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee, in the future development of the project, the Netherlands believes that COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee should remain involved in the project. However, elaboration of the text of the Space Assets Protocol and its adoption should take place within the framework of UNIDROIT. COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee should concentrate on the designation of the United Nations Secretary-General as its supervisory authority. Evidently, this requires COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee to be informed of any progress on the Space Assets Protocol throughout all phases of its development.

In order to avoid a duplication of work, and subject to its involvement in the designation of the supervisory authority, COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee should only advise on matters of international space law at the request of UNIDROIT.

The opening of the UNIDROIT intergovernmental meetings to all Member States of COPUOS and the representatives of the Office for Outer Space Affairs will enable the participation of space law experts in those meetings and hence provide

sufficient opportunity for the satisfactory involvement of COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee in the development of the Space Assets Protocol.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Netherlands believes that the Space Assets Protocol should be retained on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee beyond its forty-first session in the year 2002. Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of the Netherlands for your statement on agenda item 8. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Mexico, to whom I give the floor.

**Ms. M.T.R. JASSO (Mexico)** (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to begin by joining other delegations in expressing our gratitude to the Governments of France and Italy for their very worthy support granted to the ad hoc consultative mechanisms in charge of examining issues related to this topic and we had the opportunity to participate in their second meeting held in Rome last January.

As was already said by my delegation in the general statement during the exchange of views, my country would like to indicate its full endorsement for the Subcommittee to continue carefully analyzing the Preliminary Draft Protocol of UNIDROIT on space property and it should use the conclusions of the mechanism as a starting point. These conclusions are also supported by my delegation.

In this regard, the Mexican delegation would like to underscore the importance of ensuring integrity and respect of all principles enshrined in the United Nations treaties on outer space. In this context, we should think about the proposal put forth by the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia yesterday. These principles are reflected, not only in the preamble to the Protocol, but also in the body of the text itself. Moreover, as indicated by document A/AC.105/C.2/L.233, other delegations find it sufficient to contemplate a general reflection of principles in the preamble and believe that exhaustive description might render the document unwieldy with regard to the economic effects of it. It is perhaps enough to have a simple reference in the preamble, yet the language should guarantee full respect of the principles, rights and obligations of States, enshrined in these instruments of international public law. My delegation believes that it is appropriate for the Legal Subcommittee to continue studying the issue with a view to dissipating any possible concern.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation favours the examination of a possibility of the United Nations, through COPUOS or through the Office for Outer Space Affairs, fulfil the role of supervisory authority as contemplated in the aforementioned Protocol. Thus, we could support the recommendation of the consultative mechanism to request the Secretariat to study the possible prerequisites and the role played in being a supervisory authority and holding the register. In this way, we could, thus, be aware of the structure of financing and all requirements for these operations. Likewise, it would be appropriate to have the legal opinion of the Secretariat with regard to the possible responsibility to be assumed and that this is not at odds with the mandate given by the Member States to the United Nations.

Finally, the Mexican delegation would like to highlight the importance of the Subcommittee considering the impact of transferring the rights of space property. First, there is the issue of liability of launching States in keeping with current space treaties and particularly with regard to the transfer between debtor and creditor when they are in different countries.

Secondly, there is the issue of liability for these types of services provided, especially when said property could be key means of operating public services for a country. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Mexico for your statement on agenda item 8.

Distinguished delegates, is there any other? Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of Japan. Thank you very much, you have the floor Sir.

**Mr. M. KAMOHARA (Japan):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, the Japanese delegation, too, would like to express our gratitude to the Governments of France and Italy, as well as the European Space Agency, with respect to the organizing of two working meetings of the ad hoc consultative mechanism of the UNIDROIT Convention and the draft Space Assets Protocol thereto.

Mr. Chairman, the Japanese delegation is aware of the importance to support the development of space law, taking into account a tremendous rise in the use of outer space by the commercial sector of the last decade and also aware of the view that the draft Protocol of Space Assets has been discussed in response to such development of space activities.

However, there remains very complicated elements to be addressed with respect to the potential conflicts between the public space law framework and the private UNIDROIT Space Assets Protocol. Therefore, Japan is of the view that further careful consideration is required.

Mr. Chairman, since the view is shared that there might be danger of potential encroachment of established principles of public space law by introducing the private Space Assets Protocol, the preamble of the draft Protocol is provided for using the words of mindful of the established principles of space law. However, Japan would like to state that it would be preferable if the assurance stipulated in the preamble be reiterated in the operative provisions in a language to safeguard the rights and obligations of States Parties to the United Nations space treaties.

Also it would be necessary to clarify the position of the launching State in the event of a space object being transferred to a person not subject to the launching State's jurisdiction, as already expressed by several delegations. Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Japan for your statement on agenda item 8 and I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Canada.

**Ms. M. ALLOUCH (Canada):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Canadian delegation would like to take this opportunity to point out in addition to our statement yesterday that although the Space Protocol may facilitate the financing space assets and the development of commercial activities in space, there are important issues to be resolved. These issues arise in the context of international obligations and rights of the States and the ITU and international space treaties and in the context of Canadian domestic legislation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Canada for your statement on item 8. Is there any other delegation or observer wishing to speak on this particular item at this meeting?

I see none. And we will continue our consideration of this item this afternoon.

**Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session (agenda item 10)**

Distinguished delegates, we shall now continue our consideration of item 10 on our agenda, Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session. We started this consideration yesterday and today we will continue, first at the level of the plenary of the Subcommittee. Is there any delegation or observer wishing to speak on this particular subject?

I see none. We will continue our consideration of this item 10 this afternoon. However, I would like to put the question to you whether you wished to continue formally at the level of the Subcommittee or if you perhaps wished to prefer consultations to be held informally this afternoon, in order to exchange our views on this particular item and thus to prepare the discussion of the final draft of the agenda for the next session of the Legal Subcommittee. It would be possible to discuss it informally first and then at the formal level of the Subcommittee.

Any other delegation? No other delegation indicates to speak on this item so I will proceed as I myself indicated. Perhaps we will first discuss item 10 at the level of informal consultations. Of course, it would be in the same conference room and with the same services that we have now but perhaps less formally before we prepare our final draft. And the distinguished representative of Sweden, Dr. Niklas Hedman, will assist me in this particular task and not only here during the session of the informal consultations, but also during the noon break and later on as you may wish.

Distinguished delegates, I will now end the consideration of item 10 at the plenary of the Subcommittee but I would like to request your concurrence on another point. I would very much like to give the opportunity to some delegations which expressed their wish to inform us about the results of the Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas which will be held in Cartagena de Indias in Colombia, from 14 to 17 May 2002. I believe it has been an important conference and that we should get immediate and precise information on the results of this Conference and for this reason, I would like to re-open the consideration of the point dealing with the activities of the international organizations and under this particular point, we will give the opportunity to the delegations who wish to provide us with this information. I will give them the floor. I understand that it will be the distinguished delegation of Chile. Yes, you have the floor.

**Mr. J. M. CONCHA** (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am grateful for this opportunity to present information regarding the Preparatory Conference of Experts to prepare for the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas. This Preparatory Meeting was held from 2 to 5 April, earlier this year. We approved the mechanism for the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas and adopted a Declaration which I would like to read here today.

The Group of Experts of the countries of our hemisphere met to prepare the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 14 to 17 May 2002 and we agreed on the following.

One. Approve the preparatory text and the timetable proposed by the Colombian delegation.

Two. Express thanks to the experts who came together for this Preparatory Conference and, through their discussion and their declaration, have contributed to enriching the content of the Fourth Space Conference to be held in Cartagena.

Three. We invite all countries to take an active part in the process of preparing for the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas and to take part in its deliberations.

Four. We encourage all countries of our continent to take an active part at the level appropriate for them.

Five. Appeal to all countries and specialized agencies and universities involved in outer space activities to make a careful study of the initiatives put forward by the Group of Experts and to pursue the initiatives that will come out of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

Six. We thank the Colombian Government for its work to prepare the Conference and organize other logistics to ensure its success.

Seven. We thank Chile for its organizational work in preparation for the Fourth Space Conference, Santiago, April 2002.

This is the Declaration adopted by the Group of Experts who met in Chile to prepare the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas to be held in Cartagena in May and we thought we would like to share this information with those present. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Chile on your information on the Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas which will be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 14 through 17 May 2002. I apologize for my bad introduction of this information but I did not have the exact name and purpose of this meeting and I appreciate that you have given us good information about what has been already fulfilled and what is expected to be done at the forthcoming conference.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak? I recognize the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia.

**Mr. C. A. YEPES** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to thank you for your kindness for having opened item 5 so that we can be brought up to date and so we can compare the successful results of the meetings of Santiago, Chile, and report them, and also Ambassador Charry unfortunately is not here but he has requested that I report the results in the following manner.

Firstly, we would like to communicate to the members of COPUOS that in Bogota next week, convened by the Colombian Chancellery, a meeting of Ambassadors will be held. It will take place in the Chancellery. The purpose of the meeting is to share and promote the highest level participation at the Cartagena meeting and thus we believe it would be extremely useful at this time to share the results of the Preparatory Meeting. And the purpose of this might be that you could then send these results to your various capital cities with the documents that accompany them and we would be delighted to send these documents to you. And despite the fact that it is a hemispheric conference, you are all cordially invited as members of COPUOS and I think this has already been made official as well.

I would also like to indicate that there is a web page that has been opened for your consultation and there you can register and you can also announce any speeches or projects, and that is [www.minrelext.gov.co/IV\\_CEA](http://www.minrelext.gov.co/IV_CEA) and this will be sent to you in writing as well so that you have all the information necessary to inform yourselves about what is taking place and how to register.

I had the privilege of attending the Preparatory Expert Meeting in Santiago and I was kindly invited by the Chilean Government and I can,

indeed, attest to the very high level of commitment, not only of the host country, but also of the participating countries. Obviously, a great majority of them come from that hemisphere but a number of space agencies, including, for example, the European Space Agency, which I would like to highlight, and they granted their official co-sponsorship to the Cartagena meeting as they have done in the three preceding hemispheric space meetings.

Also we would like to extend our gratitude to the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations which also committed to this task.

The experts met on a number of occasions and, as a result of their work, there is a document which has been updated with the various topics on the agenda. I will not take up too much of your time explaining the content of the agenda but generally I would like to sketch out for you that there are three committees that will be acting simultaneously and meeting simultaneously in Cartagena. First, the Intergovernmental Commission, which will look at the political declaration. The second Commission has been called Development of the Rights to Science and Space Technologies: Cooperation Draft. There will be eight thematic modulars in this: National Legislation and Space; Space Policy; Inter-institutional Space Experience of the Americas. In Colombia, we want to learn how various agencies in the hemisphere have been established and how they can share with us the obstacles they have encountered, the difficulties they have encountered and we think this will be, indeed, a very interesting experience. And thirdly, we will highlight multilateral mechanisms and the needs at a regional level. One of the new ways and new strategies that can be deployed for hemispheric and regional cooperation. Finally, criteria and methodology for the presentation of projects.

It occurred to us that it is not enough to have an inventory of regional needs. We need to understand how the projects are presented, what methodology is necessary, what is the format required?

Financing mechanism is also an important issue. It has been highlighted as one of the key topics.

And finally, analysis of UNISPACE III recommendations applied hemispherically and regionally in the area. How can UNISPACE III recommendations be applied at a regional level.

And the third Commission is much more practically oriented with regard to application of space technology and science and the development of new

technologies. And here again, there are six modulars. The first theme is telecommunication, tele-education and tele-medicine. The second is education in space technology and science. The third modular, the environment and climate change. It seems to us that it is important that, as of results of the Cartagena meeting, general comprehensive principles be set forth such as will occur in Johannesburg. The fourth modular is management of natural resources. Again, it is key that we have a methodology in place which takes into account the wealth of natural resources available to us and how to exploit them. The fifth, very basic and central theme, is prevention, early warning and mitigation of the effects of natural disasters. So those are the themes that will be involved in the third Subcommission. So as you see, we have two types of coordinators for this, national and an international coordinator.

We have been very well received by international coordinators who have been in contact with national coordinators. There is a great mobilization of efforts in Colombia for this meeting, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Communications, the Ministry responsible for scientific development, transportation, civil aeronautics. In short, a whole series of ministries and institutions are working together on this task.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would wish to share the fact, and again we will distribute a document to this effect, general information on Cartagena with guidelines for delegations in terms of ties that can be established, protocol, transportation, airport, lodging, the Convention Centre, safety, the press and health issues. This was the result of consolidated efforts of the Colombian Chancellery and, as you can see, when you read the document, the entire structure of the Cartagena Conference is in place.

And now I have just one remaining issue, Mr. Chairman, and that is that you all communicate this to your capitals and that you extend the invitation and please know that we would be very happy to receive you in Cartagena. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much distinguished Ambassador for Colombia for your information that completed the first information given to us by the distinguished representative of Chile and now you elaborated in some greater detail about the content about the forthcoming conference.

Is there any other delegation wishing to comment on this information?

I see none. And, therefore, I believe that we have exhausted the subject of item 5 of our agenda. It means information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law, which we have re-opened this meeting and it is now definitely closed.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee to allow the Working Group on Item 6 to convene its fifth meeting under the chairmanship of Manuel Alvarez of Peru. Before doing so, however, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon as usual.

This afternoon, we shall continue consideration of item 8, Consideration of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (opened to signature in Cape Town on 16 November 2001) and the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets, and item 10, Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session.

As far as the latter item is concerned, it means item 10, we already agreed that we would hold this discussion at the level of informal consultations but in this conference room and with the assistance of our interpreters and, of course, with the assistance of our kind Coordinator for this particular point, Mr. Niklas Hedman of Sweden.

I have been informed that the distinguished Chairman of the Working Group on the question of definition and delimitation and the geostationary orbit, who is still absent, is on the way to our session, to our meeting and he might be here in a few minutes. But I would like to suggest to you that because the comparative table announced by our distinguished colleague and representative of the Russian Federation, Professor Kolosov, is already available, that you might use the time of a short break that I intend to do now for reading this document and then we will re-open our session. It means that we will hold the session of the Working Group on Item 6.

So now our consideration is suspended for the time being, for a short break, and then we will meet as soon as the distinguished Chairman of the Working Group 6 appears. Thank you very much.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.09 a.m.*

*The meeting closed at 11.24 a.m.*