

**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript***535<sup>th</sup>** Meeting

Wednesday, 8 June 2005, 3 p.m.

Vienna

*Chairman:* Mr. A. A. Abiodun (Nigeria)*The meeting was called to order at 3.13 p.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Distinguished delegates, good afternoon to you all. I am sorry we are about 12 minutes behind time, the reason being that the Bureaux and the Secretariat have been trying to do the best possible to make sure we do not waste or lose the time that is available to this meeting and I am told by the Secretariat that most of you have put your names down only to speak for tomorrow rather than today on agenda items 4 and 5. You want to speak tomorrow but we want as many of you as possible to speak today so as to be able to spend the hours allocated to this body. Right now I have potentially three speakers and that means that by 4.00 p.m., if I do not have any more additional speakers, I will have to adjourn the meeting for today. That is not good. Maybe you might want to even use my own office, any office there, to brush up, to edit your statement and come and address us this afternoon, if possible. It is not mandatory. It is just a suggestion of the Chair.

Now having stated that, distinguished delegates and representatives, this afternoon we will continue our consideration of agenda item 4, that is, General Exchange of Views, and begin consideration of agenda item 5, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

**General exchange of views (agenda item 4)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, and the first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Nigeria, Professor Robert Boroffice, the Director-General of the Nigerian

Space Agency. Professor Boroffice, you have the floor.

**Mr. R. A. BOROFFICE** (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Nigerian delegation is delighted to have you Chair this Committee and wishes to commend your effort and the progress made by the Committee since your assumption of office as the Chairman of COPUOS. We noted that you have indeed applied your wealth of knowledge in conducting the sessions of the Committee and piloting its affairs well both at the COPUOS and General Assembly levels. We reaffirm our belief in the work and principles of the Committee and pledge our cooperation with the Chairman throughout the duration of this session.

The Nigerian delegation commends the Office for Outer Space Affairs for always implementing the programmes of this Committee and its subsidiary bodies with great zeal. We especially commend the efforts of the Director, Mr. Sergio Camacho, and the Expert on Space Applications, Miss Alice Lee, for their roles with the support of the Secretariat to ensure the implementation of the Committee's programmes.

We also commend the efforts of Mr. Jean Ping, President of the United Nations General Assembly, for his participation in the debate on space and human development and for Chairing a plenary session on COPUOS matters during the fifty-ninth General Assembly, as well as his presence this morning to address the opening meeting of the forty-eighth session of COPUOS.

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

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week of the date of publication, to the Chief, Conference Management Service, Room D0708, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria has continued to sustain her participation as COPUOS member actively and positively. At the last session of COPUOS, some of the achievements made by Nigeria in the area of space science and technology were presented. I am pleased to inform you that we have taken further actions in applying the results of space research towards achieving a sustainable socio-economic development for the people of Nigeria. The launch of NigeriaSat-1 has opened windows of opportunities for research on the problems facing Nigeria. The areas of such research include: deforestation and its implication on biodiversity in Nigeria; spatio-temporal assessment of climate and human-induced impact on eco-system degradation and water resources management; a pilot study of Kainji Lake areas of Nigeria; remote sensing and GIS in artificial recharge of aquifer in the Chad Basin; forecasting yield/hectarage of cassava for strategic national planning; an exploratory remote sensing option; development of remote sensing and GIS predictive model for desertification early in Northern Nigeria; and remote sensing and GIS for flood disaster vulnerability mapping and monitoring in Nigeria.

As a member of the Disaster Monitoring Constellation partner, Nigeria continues to contribute to global management of disaster through the use of NigeriaSat-1. In particular, Nigeria is delighted to be involved in the management of the recent tsunami disaster in South-East Asia, as well as the flood disaster in the Philippines. Nigeria will not relent its efforts to ensure the success of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts to prepare a study towards the establishment of a Disaster Management International Space Coordination entity, DMISCO. This entity is being established to implement an integrated space-based system through international cooperation, to mitigate and manage natural disaster globally.

Further actions are also being proposed to launch high-resolution African Resources Management Constellation satellites through collaborative efforts with Algeria and South Africa before the end of 2007. The modalities to achieve this noble objective are still being discussed. When launched, the ARM satellites will play a major role in the management and monitoring of resources and environment of the African continent.

We are also pleased to report to the Committee that we are making progress towards the launch of the Nigerian Communication Satellite, NIGCOMSAT-1, a major backbone for ICT infrastructure in Africa, in December 2006. We are also ready to start the implementation of the pilot

projects on tele-medicine, tele-education and virtual conference network, to make obvious the direct benefits of NIGCOMSAT-1 to Nigerians.

Nigeria, through the National Space Research and Development Agency and its Activity Centres, have organized a number of enlightenment workshops since the last meeting of the Committee. These include a national workshop on NigeriaSat-1 data validation and utilization, a grassroot awareness workshop to empower the local government officials on the use of images from NigeriaSat-1 for resources and environmental management, international workshops on basic space science and geodesy and geo-dynamics and, recently, a three-day national hands-on tool training workshop on the uses and applications of GNSS for socio-economic development in Nigeria.

In demonstration of our commitment to regional and international cooperation in the process of the implementation of our space policy and programme, Nigeria has signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding with various countries such as South Africa, Japan and Canada in the areas of observatory and other space application programmes and Italy and China in the areas of communication satellite development. Further to our commitment to international cooperation, Nigeria has joined the Committee on Earth Observations Satellites, CEOS, to enhance the promotion of satellite data sharing and utilization. The Nigerian delegation wishes to assure the international community that Nigeria is fully determined to support CEOS in the realization of its goals. Nigeria has also endorsed the 10-year Work Plan of the Group of Earth Observation Satellite Systems to further support the promotion of the sharing and utilization of Earth observation satellites.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria will be co-hosting the United Nations Workshop on Space Law/Policy and the first African Space Conference in November 2005. This is a further proof of commitment to regional and international cooperation and we shall be delighted to welcome the international community to Abuja in the third week of November 2005.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation once again pledges support to all positive views that will make a reality the visions and objectives of this Committee, especially views on the peaceful uses of outer space and the applications of space science and technology that could accelerate socio-economic development of African and other developing countries of the world.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria for his statement.

And I now invite Mr. Hoang, the distinguished representative of Viet Nam to address the Committee.

**Mr. ?? HOANG** (*name not on List of Participants*) (Viet Nam): Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you and members of the Bureaux on your chairmanship of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

My delegation would like to send our warm congratulations to the delegation of Thailand and Libya as new members of the Committee.

Viet Nam commends the significant role played by COPUOS in enhancing international cooperation to ensure the peaceful exploration of outer space. Through the development of research, dissemination of information and establishment of the legal framework to deal with proliferation(?) of outer space, the Committee has enabled the international community to benefit from the uses of outer space for peaceful purposes since its exemption(?) 40 years ago.

My delegation is very pleased with the progress made by COPUOS at \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*) and looks forward to the implementation of some of the recommendations as contained in the report.

Mr. Chairman, under the issue of regional and international cooperation, Viet Nam actively supports(?) to seek proposal of the Committee include the sharing payloads(?) (*not clear*), disseminating information on spin-off benefits, ensuring compatibilities(?) of space systems and providing access to launched capabilities at reasonable costs.

Through cooperation, developing countries would be able to benefit from space technology. Viet Nam has always adopted an open policy on satellite and technology collaboration. In this field, Viet Nam has supported cooperation with the members of COPUOS. At the regional level and strong links and networking have already been established among ASEAN members in the area of remote sensing, particularly in the training and development and \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*) receiving station for satellite data, reception and distribution in the region. ASEAN nations are also working very closely in the monitoring and prevention in \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*) in the region.

I would like to inform you of some of the activities in space technology and remote sensing in Viet Nam. The strategy of space technology of the country up to 2020 and under consideration by our Government. A Master Plan for applying and development of remote sensing technology up to 2010 has been submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. There are three \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*) receiving stations Viet Nam which receive data. Up to now, MODUS(?) and AQUA(?) remote sensing \_\_\_\_\_(?) station will be set up in the very near future. A telecommunications satellite, VSAT-1, shall be sent to orbit at the latest by 2007.

Applications of remote sensing technology in natural(?) resources management are carried out in many fields. GIS, the database for national, regional and provincial(?) level are established. The \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*) protects the Earth application of GIS on \_\_\_\_\_(?) management is in implementation. The protected(?) \_\_\_\_\_(?) provides the tool and topographic \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*). The database for flat(?) management from many provinces especially those in the South.

In international cooperation, Viet Nam wishes to broaden international cooperation and receive support from the member countries of COPUOS and the Programme of Space Applications of COPUOS in the capacity \_\_\_\_\_(?) through training courses such as those in remote sensing technologies, the integrated management plan and water resources. This, in fact, to reach non(?) -cooperation (*not clear*), we would like to inform the Committee that the twenty-sixth ASEAN Conference on Remote Sensing, ACRS, 2005, will be held in Hanoi on 7 November 2005. And the Second Space ASEAN Conference will also be held from 8 to 11 November in Hanoi.

Mr. Chairman, as a member of COPUOS since 1980, my delegation wishes to reaffirm Viet Nam's commitment to the maintenance of outer space for peaceful purposes and to the development and advancement of space science and technology applications. We attach great importance to issues such as information exchange, \_\_\_\_\_(?) research programmes and training, and commit ourselves to actively participate in the work of the Committee in future. Therefore, the Government of Viet Nam has decided to assign the Ministry of Science and Technology as a focal point in doing this work, development and international cooperation in the field of space technology.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Viet Nam for his statement.

I now invite the distinguished representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Rukieh to address the Committee. You have the floor Sir.

**Mr. M. RUKIEH** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It gives me pleasure on behalf of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to speak to you today with feelings of pride and happiness as we see you preside over the work of this Committee, especially since you enjoy great experience which will be most beneficial on the international level in the service of peace and development.

The Remote Sensing Authority in Syria, which was established in 1980, has been officially inaugurated in 1986. For a number of years, it has taken great scientific steps and follows a strategic and methodological approach which allows it to play a pioneer role in various local scientific areas and to participate regionally and internationally in various fruitful activities which are beneficial locally and internationally.

Mr. Chairman, after this brief introduction, and with all due respect, I wish to expound some of the accomplishments of our authority in implementing our strategy locally, regionally and internationally.

On the local level, the General Authority for Remote Sensing enjoys a great location west of Damascus. It is composed of a number of buildings, the basic headquarters, the dormitory of trainees, the accommodation centre for visitors, various other housing units and various sports buildings and premises for the trainees and visitors. These buildings are surrounded by gardens. These premises are quite large and, therefore, this Authority can become an advanced technology centre in Syria. The main building includes a great early advanced equipment, as well as computers, databases, as well as laboratories for various treatment and processing of various data imagery and as well as a very advanced laboratory which caters for 32 trainees and provides training according to the most advanced techniques. We have a GIS laboratory which is manned by 20 particularly specialized people.

We believe that we are beginning to embark on this new methodology and, therefore, we have taken great strides to implement development projects in Syria, most important of which have been implemented in the first half of 2004 and the beginning of 2005.

In the field of disaster monitoring and risk reduction, we have studied the results of landslides in certain areas, north-west of Syria as well as the floods resulting from such landslides. We have participated recently in a number of seminars and symposia and conferences which were essentially organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. We have also participated in the International Disaster Reduction Conference which took place in Kobe in Japan in 2005.

And we have taken note of the results of this Conference and we have approved the Yokohama and Kyoto Conventions and we find it is necessary to establish an early warning system in Syria in keeping with international agreements.

We wish to clarify that our Authority has recently established a Working Group through a specialized Disaster Monitoring Committee follows all the different results and information concerning various disasters and we are mapping areas which may be subject to earthquakes and landslides in Syria.

We are cooperating with international organizations so as to obtain the most updated information on natural and manmade disasters and we are developing our network for remote sensing.

In addition to that, our Authority has contributed through preparing a new tectonic map for Syria, in cooperation with local and foreign institutions. We are identifying the main active faults and the most active areas which may be prone to earthquakes in the future. We are also studying the geo-dynamic features west of Syria in the Gabrift(?) area. We are using DGPS stations and we are preparing ourselves to confront any possible earthquakes. We have a number of tectonic maps covering different parts of Syria with various measurements so as to identify active fault lines.

Mr. Chairman, on this occasion, the General Authority for Remote Sensing calls on you and on the COPUOS to provide the necessary support for our Authority which we, therefore, will have a positive reaction to our requests.

We also have undertaken numerous activities in the field of agriculture or the environment or prospecting for mineral wealth and water resource studies. We have a number of projects in these fields which exceed 50 projects in these important areas.

In the field of archaeology, our Authority is establishing a database on archaeological locations and

we are cooperating with the museums and the Archaeology Authority in Syria and we are cooperating with a counterpart institution in Austria and we have attracted great interest on the local, regional and international level concerning archaeology.

I wish to mention that our specialists last year have designed and developed a number of programmes in the field of GIS in the following applications: a programme to establish the programme for defining the lineaments; two, a programme to establish the optimum environmental and economic institutions and their locations; and we are also trying to develop these projects in the future and we can circulate more information on these projects with the countries that wish to cooperate with us.

In the field of training of workers and the holding of scientific seminars, we are giving this matter great attention. We have a number of activities and we held 47 training courses in 2004 at headquarters of the Authority. There are 350(?) trainees which took part in these courses from Syria and from Arab countries. We have 14 seminars on remote sensing with 350 participants from 25 Arab and foreign countries. We have held a seminar which took place in 2004. A number of workers in the Authority have participated in various studies in these fields in addition to training some of our specialists in these various technologies. We are cooperating with Syrian universities in order to teach the subject of remote sensing and we are taking care of a number of post-graduate studies in these universities.

On the regional and international level, we are cooperating with a number of remote sensing institutions in Arab and foreign countries to exchange information and experience and to train specialists in this field through agreements of cooperation. We have participated in the International Conference for Disaster Reduction held in Japan this year and we have contributed to this Conference and we have submitted a number of proposals and studies from our Authority. We have concluded a number of cooperation agreements on remote sensing with many countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

In the field of implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III and cooperation with COPUOS, as you will know, Mr. Chairman, Syria and Iran and the Russian Federation have led the Group No. 1 concerning these recommendations and Syria is one of the members in the different working groups in order to implement the other recommendations. Our Authority has deployed great efforts to consolidate cooperation with COPUOS.

We have held two workshops at our headquarters during the last four years and we also are ready to host any workshops in the future. In 2004 and 2005 we have participated in a number of workshops and international meetings held by COPUOS, such as those that took place in Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

We are glad that you have included in your agenda the question of remote sensing and archaeology and we hope we will continue attaining progress in this field and we intend to submit a scientific lecture on this topic.

Finally, on behalf of Syria, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to you and to COPUOS. We hope that developing countries will receive special attention and support in order to obtain a number of equipment, free of charge, so that our institutions that work in development fields would benefit from this, especially those dealing with disaster reduction.

Thank you Sir.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the Syrian Arab Republic for his statement.

I now invite Dr. Előd Both, the distinguished representative of Hungary to address the Committee.

**Mr. E. BOTH (Hungary):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me express my delegations pleasure in seeing you again presiding over the work of this Committee. I am convinced that under your chairmanship this Committee will reach a significant progress in its work.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, let me now briefly inform the Committee on some important features of our country's space programme.

As I reported at the last session of this Committee, Hungary joined the European Space Agency as a European Cooperating State. This new status provides us with a more intensive participation in different programmes of ESA. Our annual contribution is one million Euros. Up to now, ESA has place 25 contracts with Hungarian institutes and companies, mostly in the field of space sciences. We sincerely hope that the successful implementation of this programme will pave our way towards the full membership in ESA.

However, my country's goal is to sustain a balanced international cooperation in the space field. Although our most important partner is the European Space Agency, I am pleased to report on a good cooperation with the United States and the recent progress in our Russian relations. In the latter relation, Hungarian scientists and engineers are producing a geo-physical instrument for the Russian scientific satellite missions, Predvestnik and the Vulcan series. We hope that these satellites will contribute to the more efficient disaster management from space. I am also pleased to report that a Hungarian group joins to the scientific programme of the Japanese probe of the joint ESA-Japan Mercury mission BepiColombo, thus opening up a rather new relation in our cooperation.

During the last session of this Committee, under the agenda item, Space and Society, my delegation reported on the preparation of a related international conference. Now I have the privilege to report on the successful implementation of the conference. From 17 to 19 March 2005, the International Academy of Astronautics has organized its first stand-alone conference on "Impact of Space on Society" in Budapest, Hungary. A Workshop on Space and the Arts, together with a small international space art exhibition took place one day before the conference. Altogether, 40 oral and 15 poster presentations covered an extremely broad subject including societal, cultural, educational aspects, outreach activities and terminology. The successful conference, organized by the Hungarian Space Office, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Hungarian Astronautical Society, was well attended by more than 80 active participants representing different professions, scientists, managers, teachers, journalists, artists and so on.

For our country, the space applications are of outstanding importance. Thanks to the triggering effect of the series of United Nations/United States of America navigation conferences, the latest held last December, here in Vienna, we reached a good progress in this field. Together with other government authorities, we regularly study the ways and means, how can the satellites navigation services more and more widely used for the benefit of our whole nation.

Thank you for your attention. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Hungary for his statement.

Now, as far as agenda item number is concerned, before I take the observers, do we have any

more delegates wishing to speak this afternoon on agenda item 4?

If not, I invite the distinguished representative of UNESCO, Mr. Julien Tort, to address the Committee.

Mr. Tort, you have the floor.

**Mr. J. TORT** (United Nations Educational, Scientific And Cultural Organization) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Sir. UNESCO is very pleased to join in this session, a session being led so ably by you, and it is my great pleasure to share with you the projects of UNESCO in the field of outer space ethics. My colleagues who will be present here next week will share with you additional information on the other areas such as space education and the management of global heritage.

As you well know, UNESCO is the advisory body which the COMEST established. They have addressed the issue of outer space ethics and have done so for over six years now and since 2002 UNESCO has transmitted to the Subcommittee and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts the various recommendations adopted by COMEST in 2001. And you will all recall, I am sure, that a Group of Experts was set up and they recommended that UNESCO's Division on Science and Ethics prepare documentation aimed at considering, in accord with the recommendation of COMEST and the Group of Experts, possible actions that UNESCO could undertake. And, as a number of delegates here well know, we submitted this document for bilateral consultations to gauge the usefulness of the various proposals contained in this document.

And following the results of this consultation, COMEST recommended that UNESCO should not seek to produce a norm-setting instrument on this issue but to focus on awareness-raising of the moral problems related to space activities within reinforced international cooperation. This was adopted by COMEST during its Fourth Regular Session which was held in Bangkok in March of last year. It will be submitted to UNESCO's General Assembly next fall and they will address this issue further.

UNESCO's activities in this field are not limited to exploring possibilities for action within the framework of our project of building space ethics as a scientific branch and something which should be within the public domain. UNESCO strives to involve philosophers, researchers, representatives of civil society in all issues related to ethics in space exploration, the dignity of astronauts, the use of outer

space objects and so forth, and this is now approached not only from a legal standpoint but also from an ethical standpoint. This is made up of the clarification of the moral values at stake here, their appropriateness, their justification and the recognition and promotion of the public nature of these issues.

It is in this spirit that UNESCO and the European Centre for Space Law organized, in cooperation with ESA's Legal Division, as well as the University of Paris, a Symposium on the Ethical and Legal Framework for Astronauts During Space Sojourns. This Symposium was held at the Headquarters of UNESCO in 2004 and you, Sir, were graceful enough to be its Rapporteur. The results of this meeting will be available in June and French and Spanish versions will follow shortly. We hope we will have them at our disposal, we hope to have them at our disposal, unfortunately this was not possible for our meeting here now and we will provide the delegates with copies of this publication through the national delegations attached to UNESCO.

As you will be able to see after you have read these Acts, the various points of view of the astronauts, legal practitioners, philosophers, has allowed us to identify the emergence of original points of view. The Centre wishes to organize another conference in 2006 and we hope that all of you will be present and this Symposium will address the legal and ethical framework of the explanation of the solar system.

It would also be remiss of me not to mention our cooperation with the European Space Agency on space exploration. The Agency has indeed asked UNESCO to assist it in the Group on Exo(?) -Biology and Global Protection, as well as for the Working Group on the Strategy for Exploration. Within these two groups, we attempt to represent a humane and ethical point of view on space exploration and to raise awareness regarding this.

By way of conclusion, I would like to invite all of you, on behalf of UNESCO, to get involved and call on all stakeholders to participate in the debate on awareness-raising of moral issues related to space exploration.

The UNESCO website now compiles a number of contributions to space ethics and will provide additional links and information on the subject in the near future. We cherish the hope that the publication of the Acts of the Conference on Astronauts will broaden the appeal of this issue and we have no doubt that the already useful cooperation

between the Committee and UNESCO will continue in the future with the further development of this field.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of UNESCO for his statement.

Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes my list for this afternoon on agenda item 4.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this particular agenda item, General Exchange of Views, this afternoon?

I see none.

Accordingly, as I indicated to you all this morning, I intend to close the list of speakers on agenda item 4 tomorrow morning. Accordingly, I urge all delegations still wishing to make statements under the general exchange of views, that is item number 4 on our agenda, to inscribe their names with the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Thus, we shall continue our consideration of agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, tomorrow morning.

#### **Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (agenda item 5)**

In the meantime, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 5, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

In this connection, I would like to remind delegates that in its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixtieth session later this year. The Assembly also agreed that during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation, based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas, and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

I do not have any speaker listed in front of me right now.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor on agenda item 5, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes?

No?

We have two hours and three minutes going. Alright?

If there are no delegations wishing to speak under this item this afternoon, we will, therefore, continue its consideration, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, tomorrow morning.

Distinguished delegates, I will now adjourn this meeting of the Committee. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning. We will reconvene promptly at 10.00 a.m., God willing. At that time, we will continue with agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, and item 5, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes. And I appeal to all of you who have not spoken to please prepare yourselves overnight to address us tomorrow on these two items.

Under agenda item 4, Dr. Karl Doetsch of Canada will make his special presentation on the scientific and technical aspects of the work of the Committee and the way ahead.

And time permitting tomorrow, we will also begin our consideration of agenda item 6, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

So I would like to interrupt myself there and ask if there are any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

Is this agreeable to all of us?

Give me a second please.

In the absence of any questions, let me take this opportunity also to inform delegates that they are all invited to attend the official opening of the "India in Space" exhibition, jointly organized by the Indian Research Space Organization, popularly known as ISRO, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The opening ceremony of this event will take place in the Rotunda on the ground floor of Building 'C' immediately following our meeting tomorrow afternoon. The exhibition will be opened by the Chairman of ISRO, Mr. G. Madhavan Nair, who is here with us, by the Permanent Representative of India

to the United Nations Office at Vienna, Ambassador Sheel Kant Sharma, by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Sergio Camacho, and myself. Delegates are also invited to attend a reception being hosted by the delegation of India immediately following the opening ceremony.

Now that is all I have except for one more piece of information which I am trying to clarify in the next five minutes so can you please bear with me to be able to ascertain the status of that information and then I will come back to you. Let us take an intermission of five minutes but do not go home. The meeting is not adjourned. So please give me five minutes. Thank you.

*Break*

Distinguished delegates and representatives, thank you for obliging me. Now because we are losing close to two hours I was really getting scared of how I can save part of that time but so far I have not succeeded except to save it for you and for Nigeria. We have succeeded in getting our reception moved forward by half an hour and so instead of 6.00 p.m., the Nigerian reception in the Mozart Room at the VIC Restaurant will start at 5.30 p.m.

Is that agreed?

*It is so decided.*

The meeting is adjourned.

*The meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.*