

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript*540th Meeting

Monday, 13 June 2005, 10 a.m.

Vienna

*Chairman: Mr. A. A. Abiodun (Nigeria)**The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates and representatives, good morning. I now declare open the 540th meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 7, that is the Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Second Session.

We will also begin consideration of agenda item 8, the Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Fourth Session, and continue consideration thereafter of agenda item 6, that is the Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

At the end of this morning's meeting, Mr. Ariyaprucha and Ms. Pol-Ngam of Thailand will jointly make a presentation entitled "Tsunami Disasters Along the Andaman Sea, Thailand: Using Geo-Informatics Technology".

I would like to remind delegates that the Ad Hoc Expert Group that is studying the possibility of creating a disaster management international space coordination entity is currently holding its meeting in Conference Room VII.

Similarly, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is holding its intersessional meeting in Room C0713.

**Report of the Scientific and Technical
Subcommittee on its forty-second session (agenda
item 7)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin consideration of agenda item y, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Second Session.

And the first speaker on my list, I give the floor to the Ambassador of Chile. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. R. GONZALEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sorry to have asked for the floor but I would like to raise a point of procedure. It has already been mentioned that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee have held their sessions and they are going to present reports to COPUOS. These matters have to do with the remit(?) of the United Nations at large. And I do not think meetings to discuss very important matters should be held parallel to occur concurrently with this session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Today, a very important meeting is being held in this same building, the Board of Governors of the IAEA, and many delegations have to be attending that meeting and cannot, therefore, be attending this meeting at the same time.

That is my first point.

Further, we do not think it is appropriate to have the plenary meeting here simultaneously with Working Group meetings that are also tackling very important issues, particularly important to developing

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.

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countries, such as, for example, the matter of nuclear power sources in outer space. I do not think a major problem will be created if this meeting were held at 8.00 or 8.30 in the morning and then at 10.00 we can start the plenary here. Nobody would die for doing that and this would be a much better arrangement in our opinion.

I would like my statement to be reflected in the report of this session.

We really cannot associate ourselves with the results of negotiations that took place outside of this meeting parallel to it.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Ambassador of Chile for his observation. Please give me a second while I am consulting with the Secretariat.

Distinguished Ambassador of Chile, in response to your observations, let me make the following comments.

One, in regard to the IAEA plenary meeting that is ongoing or is starting this morning, I am very sure that you know the Committee itself has no control over that, not even the United Nations itself. That is outside, the schedule of their meeting is outside our purview.

Now, with reference to the meetings that are being held right now at the margins of this Committee, I share your concern and I have admitted(?) your observation but, at the same time, these were decisions made, not at the Committee level, but at the Subcommittee, and normally they meet, the Working Group on Nuclear Powers and the Working Group on Space Debris, they agree that they would be deliberating at the margins of the Committee's session. So that was their decision in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and they _____ a lot of communication via the Internet and they are now exchanging their views. So these are intersessional meetings that they are organizing. And, at the same time, as I said, the Committee was not party to the decision of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The only thing I see that is feasible at this forty-eighth session of the Committee is for the Committee itself to make a note or an observation or provide a directive to each Subcommittee of what should or what should not happen when we are having the main Committee. That is what I see possible.

At the same time, another thing we have to recognize is that in order for those who are already participating in these meetings that are being held at the margin of this meeting, they could have decided otherwise not to meet here. They could have decided to meet in London or in New York or in Santiago while we are meeting here.

As I said, I have recognized your concern and what is most important is that at the end of their meeting when we come on Other Matters, if we want to re-raise this question, you can raise so that the Committee can make, can pass its own instruction to the Subcommittees in this regard.

I give the floor to the Ambassador of Chile.

Mr. R. GONZALEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. With all due respect, I am not satisfied by your response Sir. The Committee is perfectly capable of recommending to the delegations that wish to hold parallel meetings to do so at another time, not at the same time while a plenary session of the Committee is unfolding here in this room. They could meet wherever and whenever they want but at another time. I am fully aware of the process involved but I have to recall that several years ago some States asked the Committee to enhance the effectiveness of its work and I think this might be an offshoot of that but delegations should be given a chance to participate in the plenary and attend those additional meetings. And I am going to be very grateful if you ask groups not to hold further meetings concurrently with or parallel to the session of the main Committee. We did not make the decision at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to hold these meetings parallel to the main Committee. I am sure we can look up the report. So this was not something decided at that time and we cannot endorse the decisions made by groups in whose meetings we have not had a chance to participate.

Again, please reflect what I said in the report.

Next point, as regards the IAEA meeting, I accept your explanation. This does not depend on this Committee. This Committee is not in a position to influence the IAEA's schedule. Still, we would like to request that a letter be sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations pointing out that developing countries are overwhelmed by the number of important parallel meetings held at the United Nations simultaneously with the meeting of this Committee and suffer as a result. If we are here to issue recommendations on outer space law, the rights and the

contributions of developing countries need to be taken into account.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Chile for his statement. Regarding the meetings that are being held on the margin, I think both of us are thinking the same thing. I said at the end of this meeting, when we are looking at other matters, we could come up with a position of this Committee on what should or should not happen. You have given a concrete example. What you might want to do for me when we come to that point, give us a CRP paper on this subject and we will look at it when we get there.

On the IAEA meeting and other similar meetings that are being held concurrently with COPUOS, the Bureaux and the Secretariat will take necessary action as appropriate.

I hope this concludes our deliberation on your concerns. Thank you very much.

Having stated that, I would like to invite the distinguished representative of China, Mr. Li Chuanrong to address the Committee on agenda item 7, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Second Session.

Mr. Li, you have the floor.

Mr C. LI (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Chinese delegation has noted with satisfaction the results achieved by the forty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and agrees with the statement of the report of the Subcommittee that the United Nations Space Applications Programme is helping the developing countries and the countries with economies in transition participate and benefit from the space activities under the relevant Action Plans contained in the various recommendations by UNISPACE III.

We have also noted that the United Nations Space Applications Programme will also promote and strengthen the space applications capabilities of the developing countries and that their decision makers awareness about bringing out benefits out of space technology and the importance of regional and international space cooperation.

The Chinese delegation also notes with appreciation the contribution made by the various space science and technology and education centres

affiliated to the United Nations to the promotion of capacity-building of developing countries. The Chinese Government will, as always, support the various activities conducted under the United Nations Space Applications Programme. To this end, China will host a United Nations/China Workshop on Tele-Medicine in Guangzhou(?), China, from 5 to 9 December 2005 and it welcomes all the countries and organizations with successful experience in this field to participate in this Workshop.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese delegation is pleased to note that the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has elaborated on its review on the implementation of the various recommendations adopted at UNISPACE III and that the Action Teams established are a useful mechanism for the follow-up of those recommendations. Their work has achieved much progress and is moving towards achieving substantive results.

The Chinese Government supports further efforts in accordance with the Vienna Declaration to set up a space-based global early warning management assessment and coordination mechanism on natural disasters so as to improve the regional and global capacity, particularly the capacity of the developing countries in disaster reduction, relief and prevention. Chinese experts selected by the Chinese Government have participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/2.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese delegation has noted that the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee stated that all countries, especially those with space activities, should continue their research on space debris and conduct international cooperation in this field with a view to reducing space debris to a minimum. The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the issue of space debris and has formulated the regulations on the strict control of space debris created by space activities. The Chinese Government has also increased its investments in the study and research of space debris and strengthens its infrastructure-building for the research of space debris.

At present, China has basically solved the technical issue of preservation(?) of upstage of carrying rockets and is using the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines prepared by the Space Debris Mitigation Coordination Committee as a reference in preparing its own space debris mitigation standard which is compatible with the current level of China's space technology and capacity.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese delegation has noted that the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee also provided a review of the implementation during the first year of its three-year Work Plan for the space-system-based disaster management support. We note with appreciation that some countries and organizations have used this space technology in actively providing assistance in the field of disaster forecasting, monitoring, assessment and they have carried out international cooperation and had made a great contribution in the field of disaster management. The Chinese Government actively supports the establishment of various disaster mitigation constellations and is ready to make a substantive contribution to the space-system-based disaster management support.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese delegation supports the designation by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Year 2007 as the International Geophysics and Heliophysics Year. The competent department of the Chinese Government have sent scientists and experts to the relevant events and activities and they will continue to provide assistance to related events and activities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

And I now invite the distinguished representative of Australia, Ms. Liz Day, to address the Committee on agenda item 7. Ms. Day, you have the floor.

Ms. E. DAY (Australia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As this is the first time that Australia is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you for again assuming the Chair and also to thank the Secretariat for all of its efforts in the lead-up and during this meeting. The previewed briefing that the Secretariat offered to Member States, the circulation of press review and timely distribution of documents greatly assist the Permanent Missions in the work that we do here in Vienna.

The aim of my intervention this morning is to provide an overview of the joint United Nations/Australia Training Course on Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue which was held in Canberra from 14 to 18 March this year. The course was the fifth of its kind to be held between the United Nations and a member country of the International Satellite Systems for Search and Rescue, or COSPAS-SARSAT. Over

35 individuals attended the course representing 17 nations, many of these Pacific Island States. In the Oceania region, only Australia and New Zealand currently participate in the COSPAS-SARSAT system, through the provision of mission control centres and ground segment equipment.

With a view to facilitating wider Pacific Island participation in the system, the March course focused on promoting awareness of the COSPAS-SARSAT programme and improving understanding and coordination of the programme activities and operations within the Oceania region.

A considerable amount of effort was put into making the subject relevant to South Pacific course members. The course comprised national presentations, demonstrations on components of the COSPAS-SARSAT system and field visits.

The feedback received by course organizers was very positive. Many participants commented on their improved understanding of the COSPAS-SARSAT system. Some had been exposed to the system for the first time. Already in response to the Workshop, the Solomon Islands has conducted a review of search and rescue arrangements and, along with Kiribati(?), has requested advice from setting up a distress beacon register.

All delegations should have received in your pigeon holes a report on the Training Course which has been circulated in document A/AC.105/851. The report provides an overview of general observations and recommendations emerging from the course. In addition, I would be happy to provide any interested States with further information on the course or copies of presentations made.

Sadly, I understand that our former Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Professor John Carver, of Australia, has recently passed away and I just wanted to advise the Committee of that information in case any of you worked with him.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Australia for her statement, and, as Chairman of this Committee I have also noted your brief information to this Committee of the passing of Professor Carver. Most of you in this room may not know Professor Carver but many of us knew him very well. And Professor Carver, actually John Carver of Australia, was a very distinguished scientist from the

Australian National University in Canberra. He more than ably served this Committee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for 25 years as a thorough, efficient, disciplined, soft-spoken and kind Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. He was very committed to the United Nations. I personally worked with him for close to 15 years when he was Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. I personally learned much from him and I believe those of us who knew him shared the same experience. He was a person who touched the hearts of many people in many ways and I am sure that we will all miss him very much.

Accordingly, distinguished delegates, on behalf of this Committee, I would like to convey both to the Government and people of Australia, but first to his family, your deep condolences for his passing. And on your behalf, the Bureaux will work with the Secretariat to develop an appropriate condolence message that can be sent to his family as well as to the people and Government of Australia.

If there any comments to be made on Professor Carver, I would like to open the floor for that.

India has the floor.

Mr. M.Y.S. PRASAD (India): Mr. Chairman. The Indian delegation has a long association with Professor Carver and we always respected his wisdom and his broad scope of knowledge in guiding the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as Chairman for a long time. We convey our condolences to the Government of Australia and to his family and it is a big loss for the space community.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of India.

Ambassador Gonzalez of Chile, you have the floor.

Mr. R. GONZALEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Government of Chile, I would like to most especially join in expressing the feelings of loss and expressing my condolences for the passing of Professor John Carver. I had the privilege of knowing him personally.

As you so well put it, Mr. Chairman, he was a scientist of great renown and he put a great deal of effort into obtaining important achievements in the area of science and technology, but, above and beyond that, he was exceptional in the area of human humility. And, thus, I would like to reiterate my most sincere condolences and, through the delegation of Australia, request that these condolences be expressed to the family on the part of the Chilean Government.

Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank you Sir, the distinguished Ambassador of Chile, for your comments on Professor Carver.

Any more comments on Professor Carver?

Distinguished representative of Australia, we will take appropriate action on this issue and we thank you for the information and we are sorry for his passing. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, Australia was the last speaker listed for this morning on agenda item 7. Do we have any other delegations wishing to address this Committee on agenda item 7 this morning?

If not, I would like to begin our consideration of agenda item 8, ... yes Sir, Thailand has the floor.

Mr. S. ARIYAPRUCHYA (Thailand): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We understand that our special presentation, our Power Point presentation on the tsunami disaster will be done under item this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: It will be done this morning but not necessarily now. OK? But we will give you time to make your presentation this morning. We would like delegates to speak first and then because if we have an intervention now, it will make everything very jerky. So in order to allow for a little bit of smooth operation, we will come back to you when there are no more speakers. And I can warn you in advance that you will be speaking not later than the next 40 minutes, OK, or maybe 45 minutes. Thank you.

Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session (agenda item 8)

I now open our consideration of agenda item 8, Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Fourth Session. In that connection, I would like to give the floor to our distinguished Chairman of the Legal

Subcommittee, Professor Marchisio of Italy. Professor Marchisio, please give the main Committee a summary of the deliberations of your last session of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you.

Mr. S. MARCHISIO (Italy): Thank you Mr. Chairman for your giving me the floor.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to present to the Committee in the beginning of the consideration of item 8 of its agenda, a short assessment of the forty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee, which I had the honour to chair.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee has had at its disposal the full text of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its forty-fourth session held in Vienna from 4 to 15 April 2005, contained in document A/AC.105/850. Therefore, I do not intend to make a complete summary of this report but I would like only to draw the attention of the Committee to some issues which, in my opinion, deserve particular attention.

Mr. Chairman, during the past years, the Legal Subcommittee has moved towards the assessment of several items of great significance, beginning from the "Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space". In this regard, the Legal Subcommittee continued to reflect on the main obstacles that hamper the universal acceptance of the United Nations space treaties, especially by non-space-faring States and developing countries. These obstacles deserve adequate action by the Committee. In particular, it seems clear that the low number of parties to the United Nations treaties on outer space among some developing countries, especially in Africa, depends, *inter alia*, from the perception that the topic of outer space seems to be distant from the needs faced by the populations of those countries. In this perspective, I believe that the ongoing process towards the promotion of space technology and space applications for the benefit of humankind should include also a reference to the importance of the United Nations treaties on outer space, in order to improve their acceptance by all Member States of the United Nations, especially the developing countries, and to underline the benefits deriving from those treaties.

You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that the Legal Subcommittee approved in 2004 the text of a model letter that the Secretary-General might wish to send to the competent authorities of States that had not yet become parties to the United Nations treaties on outer space. It approved also the text of a similar letter to be

sent to intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities that had not yet declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations under the relevant space treaties.

This year, the Subcommittee agreed that it would be premature for the Working Group on this agenda item to meet during the session, as Member States and international organizations needed time to respond to the letters sent to them concerning the five United Nations treaties on outer space and to the recommendation of the General Assembly, resolution 59/115 of 10 December 2004, concerning voluntary submission by Member States of information on their current practices regarding on-orbit transfer of ownership.

As a consequence, the Subcommittee agreed to suspend the Working Group under Agenda Item 4 for the forty-fourth session and to reconvene it at the forty-fifth session in 2006. At that time, the Subcommittee should also review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that session.

Moreover, the Subcommittee agreed also that Member States should regularly provide the Office for Outer Space Affairs with information on their national space legislation and policy in order to maintain an up-to-date database on that subject.

Mr. Chairman, permit me to draw once again your attention, and the attention of the Committee, on the importance of the acceptance of the United Nations space treaties by the intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities. The treaties which provide for such acceptance are the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Conventions on International Liability and on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. In order to enable those intergovernmental organizations to declare their acceptance of the rights and obligations under those treaties, it is necessary that a majority of the States Members of those organizations be Contracting Parties to the treaties.

Mr. Chairman, concerning the item of the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee devoted to information of activities of international organizations relating to space law, I would like to call the attention of the Committee on the fact that the Legal Subcommittee commended this practice for its meaningful results. It noted also, however, a certain decrease in attendance and participation of the number of the United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations having permanent

observer status within the Committee in the work of the Legal Subcommittee. The Committee might wish to agree on specific action in that regard.

Under the same item, I wish to appreciate the remarkable results of the Third Space Law Workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 25 November 2004 and express my gratitude to Nigeria for convening a Fourth Workshop in November 2005.

Mr. Chairman, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on "Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space" and on the basis of the discussions on the notes of the Secretariat "Questionnaire on Possible Legal Issues with regard to Aerospace Objects: Replies from Member States" and "Analytical Summary of the replies to the Questionnaire on Possible Legal Issues with regard to Aerospace Objects: Preferences of Member States", the Subcommittee agreed to invite Member States to submit proposals concerning a methodology for reviewing the replies to the questionnaire on aerospace objects, with a view to developing an acceptable common understanding regarding the definition and delimitation of outer space and to recommend that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space invite the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee 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. Furthermore, the Subcommittee agreed to invite Member States to submit information on national legislation or any national practices that may exist or are being developed, relating directly or indirectly to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to turn in details to the groups of items on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee which have been designated as single issues/items for discussion. I wish briefly to recall that the Subcommittee continued its consideration of "Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources", and of the UNIDROIT Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment.

The Subcommittee welcomed the establishment of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group, coordinated by The Netherlands, which had carried out its work intersessionally and considered the appropriateness of the United Nations acting as Supervisory Authority. During the deliberation under this agenda item, the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group has been thoroughly discussed. While it was

not possible to reach consensus regarding the principle question of the appropriateness of the United Nations serving as the Supervisory Authority, the Subcommittee and its Working Group on this subject made a remarkable work in order to identify and clarify the fundamental issues relating to the assumption of the function of Supervisory Authority and the practical issues thereof, including the division of responsibilities within the United Nations, the financing of the Supervisory Authority, the enjoyment of privileges and immunities, the protection against liability of the United Nations.

The Subcommittee agreed that the item should remain on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its next session under the title "Examination and Review of the Developments Concerning the Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Cape Town Convention". Since the draft resolution that had been attached to the Working Group could not find unanimous support, some delegations submitted a Working Paper containing a proposed draft resolution with a view to facilitating the consideration and eventual adoption of such a resolution by the General Assembly.

I am sure that our discussions within the Legal Subcommittee have been extremely helpful in informing the positions of various States.

Mr. Chairman, under a three-year Work Plan, the Legal Subcommittee continued to consider the "Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects". In accordance with the Work Plan adopted by the Committee, the Subcommittee and its Working Group on that subject examined reports submitted by Member States and international organizations on their practice in registering space objects. The Secretariat had produced a very informative background paper and also a Conference Room Paper containing statistical information on the number of space objects launched and registered or unregistered from 1957 to 2004. In this context, the Subcommittee encouraged those Member States of the United Nations that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Registration Convention to become parties to that Convention. It also encouraged States Parties to the Registration Convention to establish a national registry and to inform the Secretary-General of the establishment of such a registry. It was agreed that, on the basis of the background paper prepared by the Secretariat and the subsequent discussion, the following issues should be the focus of the attention at the session of the Subcommittee in 2006: harmonization of practices, administrative and practical, non-registration of space

objects; practice with regard to registration/non-registration of foreign space objects. At the end, the Subcommittee also agreed the identification of common practices and drafting of recommendations for enhancing adherence to the Registration Convention.

My last comment, Mr. Chairman, regards the proposals for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session. During the forty-fourth session, it was not possible to reach consensus on new agenda items. Due to the lack of consensus of a new agenda item on the “Appropriateness and Desirability of Drafting a Universal Comprehensive Convention on International Space Law”, a working paper entitled “Questionnaire on Possible Options for Future Developments of International Space Law” was submitted. The Subcommittee agreed that the working paper could be discussed by the Working Group on Agenda Item 4 on the “Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space”. Other proposals were retained for possible discussion at subsequent sessions.

In this regard, it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that an effort should be made in order to agree on the inclusion of new items within the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, taking into account the broad range of proposals presented by Member States. This agreement must be reached with the consciousness that the Legal Subcommittee is the appropriate body, not only for assessing the application of existing rules of international space law, but also for identifying the legal aspects of new issues that have arisen with respect to outer space activities in the more recent years.

Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by expressing my appreciation to the Chairmen of the respective Working Groups established by the Legal Subcommittee: Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil, Chairman of the Working Group on the “Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space”; Professor Vladimir Kopal from the Czech Republic for the Working Group on the “Examination of the UNIDROIT Preliminary Draft Protocol; and Mr. Niklas Hedman from Sweden for the Working Group on the “Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects”. I would also thank Mr. René Lefebvre of The Netherlands for coordinating the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the draft UNIDROIT Protocol. A special tribute also to Mr. Camacho-Lara and to the staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank our distinguished Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, Professor Marchisio, for his introductory statement on the work of the Subcommittee at its last session.

Distinguished delegates, I now invite delegates to address this subject and the first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Nigeria, Mr. Brisibe. Mr. Brisibe, you have the floor.

Mr. T. BRISIBE (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. The delegation of Nigeria wishes to express its appreciation of the work undertaken by the Legal Subcommittee as a whole, including the achievements of its various working groups convened at its forty-fourth session.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria has been a party to four of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. It is committed to the successful implementation and application of the international legal framework governing space activities. It has already been announced during this course of this General Assembly meeting that the next United Nations-sponsored Workshop on Space Law will be hosted by Nigeria in November this year. It is anticipated that this event will serve the purpose of firstly promoting the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles in outer space. Secondly, the Workshop will promote the exchange of information on domestic space laws and policies for the benefit of professionals involved in the development on implementation of those policies. And thirdly, Mr. Chairman, the Workshop will consider the development of university-level studies on programmes in space law with a view to promoting national expertise and capability in this field, as well as identifying priority areas for education in space law in the region.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Nigeria also wishes to commend the efforts of those States Members of the Committee of Governmental Experts and the working groups established under the auspices of the Legal Subcommittee on the progress that has been made to date in facilitating the deliberations regarding the adoption of a Space Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. The debate regarding this agenda item is indicative of the importance attached to the formulation of a Space Protocol as a legal instrument able to facilitate private financing of space activities to the benefit of commercial as well as public space applications.

In the context of the parallel logistical steps taken by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, UNIDROIT, Mr. Chairman, the Nigerian delegation welcomes the creation of an electronic means of working and wishes to express our commitment towards increasing its participation in and supporting the activities of the Committee of Governmental Experts.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

And the next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Malaysia, Ms. _____ Mustafa(?). Ms. Mustafa, you have the floor please.

Ms. MUSTAFA(?) (*not on speakers list*) (Malaysia): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, we would like to congratulate Professor Marchisio, Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, in successfully bringing together the resources of the Subcommittee to produce the report.

We would like to address the issue pertaining to the practice of States in registering space objects. Allow me to inform the Committee that Malaysia has not acceded to the Registration Convention because we have not yet put in place domestic legal instruments that would allow us to do that. But, in the meantime, we have set up a national register through an administrative instruction on the basis of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the matter. We have submitted to the Office for Outer Space Affairs the relevant information for all our satellites.

Mr. Chairman, the point of making this intervention is that a Member State can take responsibility for its actions even without acceding to treaties and conventions.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Malaysia for her statement.

And the next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of India, Mr. Prasad. Mr. Prasad, you have the floor.

Mr. M.Y.S. PRASAD (India): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation is pleased to note the progress achieved during the forty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and would like to convey its

appreciation on the leadership of Dr. Sergio Marchisio, as the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation would like to make a few comments on some elements of the report of the Legal Subcommittee.

The United Nations space treaties are evolved through consensus and most of them were accepted by a large number of countries. In this background, the review of status and applications of the five United Nations treaties on outer space is an important subject and will encourage adherence to these by the States which are yet to become parties to them.

The discussion in the Subcommittee on the United Nations assuming the role of Supervisory Authority under the proposed Space Assets Protocol of UNIDROIT is quite interesting. We noted that the Working Group and the Subcommittee could not reach consensus regarding the principle question of the appropriateness of the United Nations serving as the Supervisory Authority under the future Protocol. We also noted that the Working Group had not discussed the draft resolution to the United Nations General Assembly proposed by some delegations on this topic. On our part, India is convinced that the United Nations or any of its offices accepting the role of Supervisory Authority is totally inappropriate and is in conflict with the fundamental mandate of this high-level intergovernmental organization. In fact, we consider that the draft Protocol on Space Assets itself is not technically and logically tenable for the proposed aims and purposes.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation considers the contributions of the Legal Subcommittee over the years in developing an international legal regime of outer space as very important. We expect the Legal Subcommittee to contribute to the further development of international space treaties in future on the complex new subjects. We endorse the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its forty-fourth session.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of India, Mr. Prasad, for your statement.

And the next speaker on my list is Professor Vladimir Kopal of the Czech Republic. Sir, you have the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, speaking for the first time at the forty-eighth session of this Committee,

I would like to join my colleagues who already had the opportunity to greet you in the Chair of this session. We are confident that under your valuable guidance the Committee will be able to reach again meaningful conclusions. I also would like to warmly greet the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, who is unfortunately absent for the time being, and the Space Applications Expert, Dr. Alice Lee, and, of course, all members of the Secretariat who help us with a great dedication in our efforts.

Mr. Chairman, let me now to make some comments on agenda item 8, Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Fourth session. As usual, the Subcommittee dealt with all items of its agenda but not all discussions on substantive issues marked a reasonable progress. Therefore, it will be necessary to mention only some of them.

During the past years, the delegation of the Czech Republic appreciated the work done by the Subcommittee and its Working Group on the five United Nations treaties. This year, however, the Subcommittee agreed to suspend the Working Group and to reconvene it again in 2006. It is our hope that next year the Working Group, when re-established, will successfully continue in the deliberations on its wide mandate, adding some new issues to it. In particular, our delegation will be interested in the consideration of the working paper submitted by Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and co-sponsored by some other delegations, which is entitled "Questionnaire on Possible Options for Future Development of International Space Law", which might help the Subcommittee to reach constructive conclusions about the future orientation of its work.

The delegation of the Czech Republic has usually positively assessed information from international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and their activities relating to space law. Commenting a rather limited attendance from among the specialized agencies of the United Nations, our delegation supports the view of the Subcommittee that the relevant organizations of the United Nations system could enhance their taking part in the work of the Subcommittee by preparing or cooperating in the preparation of written reports on matters related to specific agenda items and by increasing the active participation in the discussions thereon.

One specific point should be raised in this context. Our delegation welcomes that after several years of discussions on the ethical issues of outer space activities in UNESCO and also in the Legal Subcommittee, this specialized agency came to a

reasonable decision not to elaborate a special declaration of ethical principles on the issue but rather to promote awareness of moral issues that are raised by space activities in the framework of reinforced international cooperation. The delegation of the Czech Republic is ready to contribute to a close cooperation between UNESCO and COPUOS, particularly its Legal Subcommittee, in order to ensure a close interaction between space law and space ethics.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation which chaired the Working Group on Examination of the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, I would now to comment in some greater detail on the proceedings of the Legal Subcommittee and its Working Group on this issue.

First of all, we appreciate that UNIDROIT, which is the author of this project, brought it to the attention of the COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee, and has actively cooperated with them in their discussions on this issue. Moreover, UNIDROIT invited all COPUOS members to participate in the sessions of its own Committee of Governmental Experts which was revising the text of the preliminary draft Protocol. And last but not least, UNIDROIT addressed the COPUOS to consider the possibility of the United Nations to assume the role of the Supervising Authority under the future Space Protocol. It has just been this possibility which has become the centre of attention of the Legal Subcommittee for several years and again at its forty-fourth session.

It is to be recalled that last year the Legal Subcommittee recommended to establish an Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group, the task of which was to prepare a comprehensive draft report on this point. This special Working Group acted under an efficient guidance of the Dr. René Lefeber, Legal Counsel of The Netherlands, whose input to the efforts of the Group must be explicitly appreciated and mentioned here.

It must be also recalled that the work was performed for the first time only by electronic means of communication. In accordance with the mandate of the special Working Group, as spelled out in paragraph 10 of the General Assembly resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004 called "International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", a draft report, including the text of a draft resolution, was submitted to the Legal Subcommittee for consideration at its 2004 session.

Notwithstanding all these efforts within the special group and lengthy discussions held them in the Subcommittee and its Working Group, a consensus on the possibility of the United Nations serving as Supervisory Authority under the future Protocol could not be reached.

In the view of our delegation, and also in my personal opinion as Chairman of the Subcommittee's Working Group, it would be a great loss if this opportunity of the Legal Subcommittee to contribute to the elaboration of a new legal instrument and thus to prove its usefulness in the progressive development of space law should be lost. This is why we support to keep on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee for its forty-fifth session in 2006 the proposed item "Examination and Review of the Development Concerning the Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment".

And this is also the reason why the delegation of the Czech Republic has become a co-sponsor of a working paper submitted by 10 States, including a draft resolution for the General Assembly on the assumption by the United Nations of the function of Supervisory Authority under the Space Protocol to the 2001 Convention, why we co-sponsored it and why we support it. This draft resolution is ready for further consideration of the Legal Subcommittee of the COPUOS and eventually of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation positively assessed the establishment of a Working Group on the item "Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects". The background paper, carefully prepared by the Secretariat and a number of expert papers presented during the consideration of this item up to date, are a clear evidence of the importance of this issue on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.

To our regret, however, "Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects" is the only item dealt with by the Subcommittee under a work plan for time being. Unlike the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which considers several issues under work plans, the Legal Subcommittee has been much less successful in reaching consensus on the inclusion of this category of items in its agenda. In our opinion, all delegations in the Subcommittee and COPUOS itself should develop more efforts and prove a stronger political will in order to enlarge this category of items which are essential for the progressive development of space law and the role

of the Legal Subcommittee and COPUOS in this respect.

And last but not least, I have the sad duty to join you, Mr. Chairman, and some of the delegations which expressed the opinion and regret of all members of this Committee on the passing away of Professor John Carver, the former long-time Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. As the former Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, I had an opportunity to sit next to Professor John Carver during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee which used to be held at that time in New York. And I must repeat that Professor John Carver was a highly qualified Chairman, a wise Chairman and an excellent human being. I regret very much of his death.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank you Professor Kopal for your statement on the work of the Legal Subcommittee and also I am sure the distinguished delegate from Australia listened to you carefully on your condolences conveyed through her to the Government and the family of Professor Carver on the sad loss of Professor John Carver. I thank you for your statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished Ambassador of Chile. Ambassador Gonzalez, you have the floor.

Mr. R. GONZALEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Having heard the various statements here on the agenda item before us, we have a few comments of our own which we hope would be useful to this Committee in the future.

First of all, I am going to talk about the recent past. I would like to highlight the Chilean delegation's satisfaction at the work accomplished by Mr. Marchisio at the head of this Subcommittee. This was work of the highest quality which has made it possible to modernize our work and provided a new and powerful impetus to our work on certain important issues which had been either forgotten or put on a back burner in the past.

So, first of all, a big thank you to Professor Sergio Marchisio but also to his country which is making an ongoing and very contribution to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and COPUOS as a whole.

My next comment has to do with the Workshop on Space Law which took place in Rio de Janeiro and another one coming up this year in Nigeria.

I know that the Workshop in Rio was well attended. It was a remarkable event and we owe a great debt to the organizers. It was of the highest quality in terms of the substance, the progress made in the legal area and the amazing organization and welcome of the Brazilian authorities. At this point we would like to express our thanks to the authorities of Brazil for having undertaken such an important and brilliant effort which is of particular significance to those of us representing developing countries.

We have to say that the space club is an asymmetrical(?) club, if I can define it that way, in the sense that traditionally it has not, to an adequate extent, addressed or served the needs of the developing countries and workshops of the kind just held in Brazil is going a long way towards the addressing that in balance creating greater awareness of needs of developing countries and also encouraging donor States to share their knowledge and their resources with those of us living in the world's poorer countries.

We also would like to pay tribute to the authorities of Nigeria and express our hope that the Workshop to be held in Nigeria will be successful.

With regard to the subjects being dealt with and above and beyond the Legal Subcommittee subjects, there are subjects that have been raised from time to time and I think if we think about these, it is good to highlight some of them. I will begin by saying that in the area of the geostationary orbit, my country, like many countries, particularly developing countries, attribute a great deal of importance to this matter. It is not a minor issue. I believe that the Colombian delegation has made extraordinary efforts in this regard and they have been very flexible and have worked with a great sense of cooperation and have established a model which we respect a great deal with regard to this matter. And I think it could lead to a consensus, of course. I think we need to make headway in this area in the next session. We cannot continue to set aside an issue which is truly important for developing nations, an issue such as satellite communications which are integrated into the orbit which is crucial, and other issues such as palatable water, all of which are interrelated. So we need to find a formula that works and that formula is reflected in the proposal put on the table by Colombia. And that proposal is favoured by many nations.

Turning now to UNIDROIT, I think this is very original and it should be envisaged using imagination and with a sense of the future and one should approach it with a question mark in mind or a wondering state of mind. There are issues that are difficult to resolve here but not impossible to resolve. There are two standards which co-exist and that is private international law and public international law. They co-exist. So how can we establish what needs to be established and meet the challenges at hand in this regard? So I think that UNIDROIT is another subject that we should continue to discuss and analyze in our sessions. And I say that because it is clearly a significant issue.

With regard to other innovative issues, if we think about aerospace vessels, if we look at the technical issues, we see that there is a challenge here to international space law. At the time that they were designed, we were not thinking in those terms. We were not(?) thinking in terms of aerospace objects. But this leads us to an obvious conclusion. First, in the area of UNIDROIT and for the geostationary orbit and in the area of aerospace objects. All of these, if we look at it, we draw the same major conclusion and that is that we need to redefine space law and this goes in the same direction as the proposal put forth by several delegations, and if I am not mistaken that includes the delegation of Greece, whereby the current space treaties do not suffice in this regard. And I also believe that the Russian Federation was behind this idea, if I recall correctly. And it think it is absolutely relevant. We have new challenges before us. The Space Treaty was adopted in 1967. It was picked in General Assembly resolutions in 1973, resolution 22 which gave rise to the Treaty of 1977 and this set up a political and legal framework which is completely different from what we have before us today. At that time, private law was not an issue and the only players were States at that time and so the private sector and the consequent privatization of space activities has become very important, particularly for developing nations, and it has not been subject to appropriate legislation and that cannot be set aside, we cannot let it remain outside of the framework of space law.

And then, of course, is the issue of remote sensing. Clearly the principles have been laid down for remote sensing but it is outside any legal or political reality that exists today and we are quote on quote, and I emphasize quote on quote "applying these treaties" but many of them are not being applied internationally. For example, I know there are many countries that are not delivering the remote sensing data, at least my country is not benefiting from them, and we have signed agreements with other countries of the great

powers and we have not been able to implement them. And this is going back to 1985, to date, they have not been implemented, as far as data collection is concerned for remote sensing. So this is completely out of date.

So there you have four or five major reasons, and, of course, there is also space debris which also requires a legal approach and all of these are elements which, in our judgement, should lead us to understand the need for deep change and deep-seated reform of legislation, space law. And we need to think a broad-based convention that would cover all of these issues. The other day we were speaking about, I think it was Friday, we were speaking of the need to create mechanisms for interconnection between sustainable development and space and the Space Commission and, in principle, we took on board the need for an interaction modality to be put into place between the two institutions. But there is also an issue of content here as well. Clearly, environmental legislation has standards and norms in place with concepts that are quite similar to those of international space law. So including amongst our various duties is the need for a focused approach to these matters. And if we looked at the Centre(?) Commission of the United Nations General Assembly and also in the context of the Commission on International Law, one of the issues that has been discussed for some time now, quite slowly actually, and with very little political determination to implement it but at least it has been put on the table and that is the fragmentation of international law. It has been posited as a danger in that we might focus so much where we no longer have a broad and comprehensive approach to something which we see in the process of globalization. We bear witness to that. And so, of course, it must be reflected in a process of legal globalization as well and I think that is basic.

That is why I believe that we need to take all these elements, look at them and see how we can analyze them in a more integrated manner, taking a more integrated approach to them.

And finally, and this is more of an announcement, we would like to say that the other day we listened very carefully to the presentation made by the Secretary-General of the European Space Institute. We think that that presentation provided us with a very important model, an important model to follow, and we also had unofficial consultations with representatives from Latin America and this is a subject which would be evaluated for the purposes of undertaking it in the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas. We are thinking about having an institute for studying space

policy, something we see as absolutely vital, and that is why we would like to request the cooperation and collaboration of ESPI, the European Policy Institute, to help us in establishing our own institute.

And finally,, we would like to announce to the Committee that a few days ago we had an important meeting with the Ambassador of Ecuador. The Ambassador of Colombia was also in attendance, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and yours truly. We met in order to lay down the groundwork for the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas to be held in Quito in July of 2006 and fortunately ... I am sorry, I had not seen the delegation of Ecuador, who is present, but I see that the distinguished representative of Ecuador is present. And I would just like to say that we are very happy with the content of the meeting and today we had agreed that there would be another meeting, I think at 6.00 p.m., I think the Secretariat will be making an announcement with regard to this meeting with the details of it because other delegations might be participating but because this is clearly in the context of the policy that Latin American countries wish to pursue, not only in the area of scientific and technical matters, which we are very qualified to do, but we are also well qualified both in the area of policy and legal issues for space. And we have had four Space Conferences of the Americas since 1990 and this is something that is becoming institutionalized and, therefore, it provides a legal framework and, therefore, there is a mandate so that through it we may create additional mechanisms for consultation(?) and cooperation on a legal basis and based on a legal understanding of the issues that are discussed in the Legal Subcommittee and I do not think this is a minor piece of information. I think it is a major event and I think that Latin American countries are making a very powerful contribution, not only to COPUOS, but also to the Legal Committee in the larger context.

And I have been a little bit disorderly in making my presentation and I apologize for that but I think you have the content.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Chile for his intervention.

And the next speaker on my list is the First Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Arevalo of Colombia. You have the floor Ambassador Arevalo.

Mr. C. AREVALO (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much

Mr. Chairman. At the outset, as this is the ideal opportunity, I would also, on behalf of the Colombian Government and on my own personal behalf, I would like to express our condolences to the delegation of Australia for the disappearance of Professor John Carver. I heard Professor Kopal talking about him whom, no doubt, knew him much better than any of us and this highlights the importance of people who make space an actual lifetime project. People who are involved in this area, in all of its dimensions and truly the loss of a person of that stature has consequences which go well beyond a simple memory because of all that was done, all that he did and to whom we, no doubt, owe a great deal in this Committee.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express the Colombian Government's satisfaction at the manner in which Professor Sergio Marchisio conducted the Legal Subcommittee in terms of both content and methodology. We can bear witness to the change in attitude which took place in the Subcommittee in the way in which Dr. Marchisio renewed it and brought a new freshness, a wind of change into the Subcommittee in a manner in which developing nations have been requesting on an ongoing basis for some time now.

And this brings us to three issues which we believe are vital to our work, not only for the Legal Subcommittee but in general terms for the Committee. These are three issues which are space law, renovating space law and trust placed in it based on consensus. The laying the foundation for space law, we think that the space law, the principles that are currently in place were based on a consensus. It was a very professional development that took place in the area of space law in its time and naturally we believe that it should continue to be the basic instruments at hand. But along side this we also need an overhaul of the agenda. That is important, Mr. Chairman, for a number of reasons. First, because COPUOS needs to be in keeping with overall changes in the agenda with the new issues which are emerging from the correlation between this issue of vital importance and the main issues on the international agenda.

Mr. Chairman, we are currently living with the presence of the President(?) of the General Assembly which definitely points to a turning point in international life. The first is the institutionalization of some issues and the interrelatedness of these subjects and points to the need of being much more efficient in working with our agenda, particularly for developing nations.

And then this brings us to the issue of overhaul which is vital. Indeed, one of the sentences which most impacted me by Dr. Marchisio was that he requested that we make an additional effort, the delegates make an additional effort so that new proposals involving innovative items be seen with a great deal more flexibility. Member States need to be more flexible. And there are many subjects, Mr. Chairman, which we cannot repress. Repression is not the purpose of the Subcommittee. To the contrary, we need to provide a shape for a number of elements which, for some years, have been needed to be taken into account and here I am referring to the very complete presentation made by the Ambassador of Chile who, like very few people, is very familiar with the vital and essential elements of the issues at hand in this Committee. And so this is a second element which is very important.

And the third one, Mr. Chairman, is consensus. Consensus is the rule of the Committee and the Subcommittee but consensus must take into account the concerns of small groups of countries which are not necessarily big powers in the area of space but it does not mean that they do not have a right to their views so we need to realize this and we also need to see this a treasure that we must handle very carefully because consensus(?) is a strength but it also has its fragile aspects, Mr. Chairman.

So for us, those are the three basic elements which the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee in general needs to reflect in its work.

Mr. Chairman, amongst the various issues at hand is, of course, the geostationary orbit. We have always thought that it was a cross-cutting issue, not only in terms of the subject matter itself, but also in terms of time. We have seen clarifications which were very appropriate and we saw the agreement achieved based on consensus which was developed with a great deal of sensitivity and delicacy and which made it possible to establish parameters and, of course, these parameters were and are of the purview of the ITU. And this is why we have always insisted on the importance of the correlation between the various bodies of the United Nations specialized agencies because we believe that they should work not exclusively but rather in harmony and work together. We have made every effort in this regard and I would like to thank delegates for their words of support that we have received and the most recent words expressed by Dr. Alice Lee, Expert in Space Applications, with regard to Colombia's contribution, not(?) in the Legal Subcommittee, I am sorry to refer to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee here, but this is a sort of

historical chart of the use of geostationary orbits and the history of it and the satellites that were positioned and how they were positioned and we could see the idea of saturation which has a correlation in a practical instrument and this is an instrument which Colombia has highlighted and for which we are also grateful to the Office for Outer Space Affairs because they provided us with support and made it possible for the Colombian Experts Group, chaired by Professor _____(?) Strepo(?) to work closely with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and with the sponsorship of the Office for Outer Space Affairs we were also able to work with the ITU on this matter.

Subsequently, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that there a series of announcements that are important from a practical point of view, the first of which is one that we welcome with great pleasure. It is very urgent for the Latin American and Caribbean region and it was very well conveyed during the seminar that was held on the development of space law in the region. It was a very significant event which took place in Brazil, in Rio, and it highlights the need for developing instruments around a body, as in the case of Europe we have ESPI, as referenced by Ambassador Gonzalez, the European Space Policy Institute, and we need to have something similar in the Latin American region that is vital, it would help a great deal in cementing international instruments for space in the region but it would also help everyone who has a contribution to make in the region have a place to do that, particularly with regard to overhauling space policy. And we can make a much more significant contribution in this way because we have a capacity of analysis in the region which has not been sufficiently capitalized on, if I could use that expression, and a body of this nature would be very helpful.

And, Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude my remarks with the subject of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas and, for Colombia, it is truly vital. It is important because it is a unique and joint effort. It is an effort which generates many space-related activities in the region and that is why we think that institutionalizing this Conference is key. It is key in that increasingly it is convening people at many levels, not just at the decision-making level, but also, as one might expect, in the entire scientific and academic world, in the educational world, in the medical world, and that is where we really see the correlation being played out with the subject of space and the issue of development in space being correlated.

At the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, we saw a great deal of enthusiasm expressed, Mr. Chairman, in the region and naturally

we want to continue with that level of enthusiasm at the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas and that is why we are very much applauding the firm official decision of the Ecuadorian Government to host this meeting in July of next year. And, once again, the Preparatory Conference, which will be held in Chile, which we also welcome, it is a country that made it possible to professionally and seriously prepare these conferences. I, myself, can bear witness to the preparations for the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas where the Ministry of Defence opened the Conference.

And that is why, Mr. Chairman, we also believe that meetings held alongside or in parallel to this Committee are also very important and, no doubt, you will be making an announcement about the meeting to be held this afternoon at 6.00 p.m. which would be very important to take advantage of so that we can take advantage of the fact that many countries are present here at the same time and we can all make significant contributions. And here I am thinking about the contribution announced by Canada in the area of the project for natural disaster management in the Andean region and I think in the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas this was discussed a great deal. France has also been an important player in this regard and the European Space Agency and, once again, we would like to express our gratitude to them, as well as to NASA, to many countries that are not in the region of Latin America and yet are interested in creating cooperation through the Space Conferences of the Americas.

And with those remarks, I will conclude, Mr. Chairman, and, once again, express our satisfaction and congratulations to Dr. Marchisio for his very well communicated summary and many countries in the developing region are thankful to him for having addressed our interests.

Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Arevalo for his statement.

Distinguished delegates, that is the last delegation that has indicated interest in speaking on agenda item number 8 this morning.

Do I have any other delegations wishing to speak?

Greece. Professor Cassapoglou, you have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will express myself in French first because we have noted the general Anglicization(?) of our discussions and we need the freshness of French to lighten up the atmosphere a little bit which has become a bit heavy, of course, due to the weather outside.

Mr. Chairman, friends, I would like to take the floor on this item of the agenda while reserving the right to come back to it in future. But I take the floor to address this issue because I would like to refer to two items which, I think, are important with regard to the future of our work.

The first is I would like to express gratitude and congratulations to my friend and colleague, Professor Marchisio, who truly made every effort to ensure that the Legal Subcommittee would be revitalized, as it were, because for a number of years it was perhaps stuck in a not entirely satisfactory routine. First, I have some general reflections, comments to make.

With regard to the statement made by my colleagues from Latin America, the two Ambassadors of Chile and Colombia. Of course, international space law is suffering to some extent from stagnation and the stagnation is in part due to fundamental change or shift in the geo-political environment that we have seen since 1989. That is first.

And secondly, due to the commercialization, and I would not say privatization here because space activities are not yet entirely of a private initiative but certainly we have seen commercialization of space activities and we have seen the private sector getting involved in these commercial activities. So these are three changes that have taken place and here, if I may, I would like to just correct my two friends, the Ambassadors, a little bit. The issue here is not overhauling existing texts or revisiting texts on space law, but rather the issue is a review and more particularly an approach which would involve codification. There was a time, and my dear friend and distinguished colleague and friend, Professor Kolosov of the Russian Federation, had proposed and has been proposing a discussion on the possibility of codifying. I mean, this is a fairly long sentence, some three sentences on the purpose of this approach and I think it is absolutely necessary because currently we are living in an unusual situation, both psychologically and in real terms. We have been working conservatively, in a conservative trend, publicly and privately, so you have decisions and solutions which are needed and radical solutions, maybe even revolutionary ones. So we have

a situation where we have to change our attitude and we need to be more constructive and see that it is possible to begin a discussion. This would be a discussion which is the very basis of democracy. It needs to be a dialogue even more than a debate and that is the basis of democracy and it is a discussion about the possibility of making some changes, about the possibility of codification. These are larger sweeping principles, monumental principles, in the area of international space law. And here, the issue is to find the golden rule, an issue of substance, to the issue of compatibility and striking a balance between international space law and private international law for space activities. So this is a very significant issue which also must be tackled in the context of the Legal Subcommittee and it should also be tackled in the context of the plenary of our Committee.

Further, I have to refer to a matter that, over a number of years, has caused us great concern and is still causing us concern today. It has to do with the UNIDROIT Protocol initiative. In my opinion, we have exhausted within the framework of our Legal Subcommittee the discussion on that issue. What I mean is, our Legal Subcommittee and the main Committee were asked to discuss only specific details not the substance of the Protocol itself. First, the compatibility of the provisions of the Space Protocol and the provisions of international outer space law and secondly, the possibility that the United Nations might be appointed Supervisory Authority under that Protocol. Beyond those two issues, we discussed nothing, first because UNIDROIT is an international organization in its own right and it is not a specialized agency of the United Nations and(?) its Member States of that Organization and there are 80 or 90 of those Member States, if I am not mistaken, it is up to them to tackle these matters and to find solutions to these problems. And in my opinion, these are very specific issues that pertain to space activities.

Mr. Chairman, this is why Greece is fundamentally opposed to the idea that the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies be asked to perform the role of Supervisory Authority within the framework of the Space Protocol. At the time of our statement, a number of years ago, on the issue, we suggested looking for another organization, another entity, another international body for that function, for that role.

And since I am on that subject, I have to also recall that the Secretariat of this Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, working together with the Legal Service of the United Nations, stated an opinion a few years ago in its report that was not

favourable towards the idea of the United Nations being Supervisory Authority. I recall that that report said in so many words that another solution needed to be found. And I think to try and bewaiver(?) that point is a little excessive, if not to say abusive. And while useful work has been accomplished by our colleague from The Netherlands, I am referring to so-called Electronic Working Group chaired by our colleague from The Netherlands. In spite of the good work carried out by this Group, I believe that, in real terms, if I may say so, we had discussed the matter enough, through an electronic means and other means, including the debates that took place at the previous session of our Legal Subcommittee.

As regards the proposal made by five or six States with regard to a draft resolution of the United Nations, a proposal that was actually rejected by the majority of the Member States of the Legal Subcommittee. I do not really think that this draft should be re-submitted or discussed by the General Assembly, particularly the Fifth Committee. The matter has been discussed and the Sixth Committee, the Legal Committee of the General Assembly, should not be looking into that any further, in our opinion.

That, Mr. Chairman, is my statement on this rather complex issue. We have learned a lot over the years. But before I conclude I would like to convey my personal congratulations to the Office for Outer Space Affairs and personally to Madam Natascia Rodrigues for her work as regards preparing the Index on National Legislations. Secondly, for the electronic page, the web page, illustrating the work of the main Committee and the two Subcommittees and for having disseminated the treaties on CD-ROM. This is exceptionally good work for which we are enormously grateful, primarily, personally to Madam Rodrigues.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Cassapoglou for his statement, Professor Cassapoglou for your statement and I noted that your contribution talked about revolutionary ideas. Just let me add that as long you limit it to revolutionary ideas rather than promoting revolution itself, I think the Committee can live with you.

Professor Kopal please.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wish only to say a few words in reaction to the statement that has just been made by our distinguished colleague from Greece, Dr. Cassapoglou. Of course, the views of the delegation of Greece and

his personal views on the subject of the Space Protocol of UNIDROIT are known. He participated in these discussions very actively and our delegation and I, as the Chairman of the Working Group, had the honour to listen very carefully to his views. However, I have to make a certain reservation to the language that he used today and also on earlier occasions, particularly he was touching the draft resolution that was submitted by 10 members of the Working Group and of the Legal Subcommittee. And when Professor Cassapoglou, if I understood him correctly, stated here that this draft resolution was rejected by the Legal Subcommittee. It is not true. It is simply not true. This draft resolution was not discussed. It is explicitly expressed in the report of the Working Group of the Legal Subcommittee and in the report of the Legal Subcommittee itself. So that we cannot say something was already decided and it should be done an overwhelming majority. No, this was the position of a number of delegations and I regret to say of a very small number of delegations to which the distinguished representative of Greece belonged.

Moreover, another argument that he used was also somewhat unusual for me. When he argued that because of the project made by the UNIDROIT organization, which is a completely different organization than a body of the United Nations systems, it is an independent organization, as he said. And, therefore, he somehow put it in relation with the inappropriate role of the United Nations to assume the role of the Supervisory Authority. Everybody of us knows that, for example, an organization of the United Nations system, I feel(?) (*not clear*), assumed, agreed already in principle with assuming the role of Supervising Authority for the Air Protocol. So this is what I had felt as a duty to make abundantly clear here.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Professor Kopal for that view he has expressed. I think what Professor Kopal has said, even if he said something about what I said, revolution. OK, go ahead, you have the floor Professor Cassapoglou.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. Chairman, first of all, with regard to the draft resolution, it was attached to the report by the Chairman of the Electronic Group so it was attached to the report of the Electronic Group Chairman's, not to the report of a regular working group or a subcommittee. This text, of course, had not been discussed because delegations refused to discuss it. Maybe I picked the wrong words when I said "rejected", I should have said "refused". We did not

agree to discuss this draft because we said it was not our mission, our task to do so. This is the meaning of what I was trying to say. In fact, independently from the situation around this draft resolution, our idea was that we had used this process in full, of course States are sovereign and can raise any suggestion or any proposal, even at the level of the General Assembly if they so wish, with the sponsorship of other States. But the process we have here, that we have tried to establish within our Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS was not, in my opinion, entirely appropriate in this regard. We could bypass the process and sometimes we observe this tendency to try and do that. In other words, if the process has run its course and if somebody has not been successful within the framework of the Subcommittee, they try to re-submit the draft resolution directly to the General Assembly. There have been examples of this sort. One precedent that I recall that I even participated in, in a way, it was a case that had no follow-up. It was the draft resolution on launching States two years ago.

So this is the background, this is the history with regard to this type of draft resolution and this has been a source of great concern to us.

As regards the UNIDROIT statute, it is well known that UNIDROIT is not a specialized agency of the United Nations. It works independently from the United Nations, from the General Assembly and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations and, in a manner of speaking, if I could say so, there is no permit or no licence issued to that body. It is a body that elaborated a treaty and treaties prepared by that body entirely belong in the realm of private law. There can be no discussion at the General Assembly whether or not the United Nations should be given the role of Supervisory Authority because the Diplomatic Conference decided to ask ICAO, the International Civil Aviation Organization, to assume that mandate. It is very important to recall these things, to remind my colleagues that at the time of my first statements on this issue three or four years ago, I did point out that if an international or global organization existed specifically for matters pertaining to outer space, then we could confer this role on that organization. But, given the fact that such an organization does not yet exist, we have to put this matter aside because the United Nations is an extremely political organization. It has nothing to do with commercial activities.

This, Mr. Chairman, is the summary of my comments over time and my response to the statement made by my distinguished friend and colleague, Professor Kopal.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I know that the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee has asked for the floor. I am just looking at the two clocks in front of me. We have a presentation for this morning. I will hope that this will be very brief so that we can take this presentation and any other comments I appeal to delegations to wait until the afternoon.

Professor Marchisio, you have the floor.

Mr. S. MARCHISIO (Italy) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I am going to be very brief.

As a member of the Italian delegation, I believe that Professor Kopal of the Czech Republic has clarified the work accomplished by the Legal Subcommittee and its Working Group on the matter of the draft UNIDROIT Protocol at its forty-third session.

As to the Greek delegation, I believe that its representative has been referring to our process whereby the draft resolution is being submitted to the General Assembly but it has not been submitted to the General Assembly so it is a matter that can be qualified as hypothetical at this time.

Thirdly, we would like to clarify for the Committee that the Subcommittee agreed that the next session take up an agenda item which is entitled "Review of Developments with regard to the UNIDROIT Protocol".

Thus, Mr. Chairman, I took the floor simply to clarify these matters.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Professor Marchisio, I thank you very much for your clarification and I appeal to delegations to please agree with me to suspend our deliberation of agenda item 8 until the afternoon and we shall continue.

Technical presentation

That being agreed, distinguished delegate, I would now like to turn our attention to the technical presentation which is scheduled for this morning. This technical presentation will be given by Dr. Ariyapricha and Ms. Pol-Ngam, both distinguished delegates of Thailand. The presentation itself is titled "Tsunami Disasters Along the Andaman Sea, Thailand: Using Geo-Informatics Technology". Let me add that

Ambassador Ariyaprucha is a member of the Board of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency of Thailand, otherwise known as GISTDA, and Ms. Pol-Ngam is a staff of that same organization.

Your Excellency and the lady, you both have the floor. Thank you.

Mr. S. ARIYAPRUCHYA (Thailand): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Before we proceed to our special presentation, I would like to join other delegations in expressing our condolence to the Australian mission and also the bereaved family of Professor John Carver, who had been, as I understand, very active in our work.

Mr. Chairman, at the outset, my delegation would like to thank Ambassador Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu of Romania for his excellent leadership as Chairman of the forty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and for his lucid report of the work of the Subcommittee to this Committee earlier.

As you are already aware, the issue "Space-System-Based Disaster Management Support" has been an agenda item under consideration of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for some time. The issue is of utmost importance as natural disaster could cause great damages to lives, properties and infrastructure and disrupt economic development, in view of occurrence of natural disasters around the world, including the tsunami disaster last December in the Indian Ocean. It is, therefore, appropriate that the Subcommittee and its members are working hard to harness space-based technologies to support disaster preparedness and response activities.

The Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency of Thailand, or GISTDA in short, is, therefore, pleased to present to the Committee under agenda item 7, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, a Power Point presentation on the tsunami disaster last December. It will take approximately 15 minutes of your time. My colleague at GISTDA, Ms. Supapis Pol-Ngam, Chief of Geo-Informatics Data Applications, will show you how GISTDA has been using space-based technology through high- and low-resolution satellite data, along with GIS technology, in monitoring and management, mitigation and recovery efforts of tsunami-affected areas. Data are from satellites such as LANDSAT, IRS, SPOT-5, RADARSAT, IKONOS and QuickBird.

It is our hope that our special presentation today will be useful input for the Committee's consideration of space-system-based disaster management.

Prior to our Power Point presentation, I would like to say a few words on the tsunami disaster in order to put our Power Point presentation in perspective.

The tsunami on 26 December last year hit 17 countries, along the shorelines of the Indian Ocean and the Andaman Sea causing tremendous loss of lives, a loss of 230,000 human lives approximately, and huge damages to properties and infrastructures. The tsunami ravaged six Thai provinces along the Andaman Sea, namely Phuket, Phang-nga, Krabi, Trang, Satun and Ranong, all of which are attractive tourist destinations. In Thailand alone, 5,395 people were killed, 8,457 injured and 2,906 still missing, approximately 58,000 people or 12,000 households affected, 4,800 houses destroyed wholly or partially, 500 fishing villages affected, 6,000 fishing vessels destroyed. The environment was also greatly affected, marine and coastal parks were damaged, some coral reefs were destroyed. Because of salt water, some lands were no longer usable, at least for the foreseeable future. It was estimated that the tsunami disaster would reduce Thailand's GDP by 0.5 per cent or US\$900 million approximately.

To quote His Excellency Dr. Kanthathi Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand from his speech to the Private Sector Summit on Post-Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Washington D.C. on 12 May 2005, "The tsunami that struck the region was the largest in living memory, tremendous in both scale and scope, leading to unprecedented loss of life. In fact, Thailand is 800 years old and we have never experienced anything like this."

Immediately after the disaster, the Government, in close cooperation with the international community, NGOs and volunteers, local and foreign, young and old, moved in quickly to provide immediate relief and rehabilitation to the disaster victims and the affected areas. Thailand greatly appreciated all the help. Schools were rebuilt, damaged infrastructures were repaired or rebuilt.

With all these efforts, some of the affected areas have begun to recover. Phuket, a well-known seaside resort town, is nearly back to normal. In addition, the Government has been working tirelessly on longer term measures to help bring sustainable livelihoods to local communities, to help local business

to recover fully, to help the psychologically affected people, to help provide support and care for the orphans.

Mr. Chairman, high on the priority list of the Government was emergency preparedness, as well as setting up national and regional disaster early warning systems. On 30 May 2005, just two weeks ago, or just over five months after the tsunami disaster, His Excellency Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, presided over the opening ceremony of Thailand's National Disaster Warning Centre. The Centre will give early warnings to not only tsunami disaster, but also to other types of disaster such as flash floods, forest fires and hazardous chemical leaks. The Centre is linked to earthquake centres in Japan and Hawaii as well as to relevant Thai government agencies. The Royal Thai Navy has established on the Similan Islands a tsunami detection outpost linked by satellite transmission receivers. The Centre is also linked to radio, television and cell phone networks. Monitoring and warning towers were built in disaster-prone areas. Special buoys that can remotely monitor tsunami will also be installed.

Regarding emergency preparedness, a systematic evacuation plan for communities in the six coastal provinces along the Andaman Sea has been put in place. The Plan calls for periodic evacuation drills, designation of evacuation routes to facilitate rapid evacuation, the production and distribution of early warning system manuals which will be translated into several languages. The first evacuation exercise conducted on Patong Beach in Phuket on 29 April 2005 was very successful.

With all these efforts, confidence has begun to return to local communities living along the coastlines as well as visiting tourists.

Now, we are pleased to present our Power Point presentation.

Thank you.

Ms. S. POL-NGAM (Thailand): ... *(no microphone)* ... to the tsunami disaster, monitoring and managing(?), using geo-informatic technology. As you know, the earthquake on 26 December 2004, it caused(?) a certain tsunami disaster and caused large-scale coastal flooding in various countries including Thailand. Six provinces along the Andaman Sea in Thailand were affected as well.

_____ *(not clear)* satellite data integrated with GEOs(?) can be used as input to logistic priming.

For this _____ scenario, the _____(?) in post-disaster and this is the other concept, these are the GISTDA activities in response to tsunami disaster management including, published the Tsunami Story Book. This book contains the contents of the tsunami story, geo-informatic data utilization. There are photos and evacuation plans as well. Thailand also has Satellite Imagery-based Information for Tsunami Recovery Centre aiming to be the Centre for coordination(?) and integration in order to _____(?) in measuring GIS data and the relevant technological support for the recovery effort.

The series(?) _____ *(not clear)* geo-informatics data provided, GISTDA also supports, _____ *(not clear)* with a _____ facilities to support this _____ *(not clear)*.

Now this is the tier of the satellite data including the optical and microwave imagery(?) resolution and multi-temporal data such as Terra Modis, Aqua Modis, LANDSAT, IIS, ASTER, SPOT, RADARSAT and also high resolution of IKONOS and QuickBird, free of charge.

And GISTDA provides GIS data and the fact _____(?) which will extract from the high-resolution data and field investigation information, provide up-to-date and ready-to-use satellite data, like a 3D perspectives with _____(?) images. IKONOS images, along with _____ and GPS, were a _____(?) the suitable position of the warning towers. This would only be set up three warning towers at Patong Beach, Phuket Island. And for more, 47 towers has been set up and will be finished within this year.

And further I have slides, this is the evacuation drills at Patong Beach.

And at least 44 agencies from governmental organizations, private sector and educational institutes have already been created and due to arrive as a part of the recovery mission.

This is a comparison of the Terra Modis and Aqua Modis image. Aqua at different periods related to the tsunami event. The first image taken before the event on 22 December 2004, and for the second image, taken during when the wave(?) hit our coastal on 26 December. The active wave had been clearly seen as the white colour and three areas, the coastal front totally along the Andaman Sea. And this damaged buildings at Ban Nam Khem, Phang-nga Province. From the high resolution of IKONOS data,

_____ (?) location of damage and the degree of the damage. The wave washed the buildings away to the sea and the buildings damaged by the _____ (?) and was transported by the wave. The purple and the green areas represent totally and partially damaged buildings respectively.

And the same, Ban Nam Khem, RADARSAT present a high radio signal from the buildings which is the white colour. So on the light image, the buildings _____ (?) and also the RADARSAT _____ (?) support for the tri-line map updating.

These are pre- and post-images of the Krang Yai Cape (?). The wave hit from the both side and washed the hotel (?) _____ (?) off the _____ (?) and some parts of the Cape was damaged.

At the same place, _____ (?) imaging how the damage _____ (not clear) is the damaged swimming pool (?).

And this is the pre- and post-IKONOS image of the hotel, to the damage of the _____ (?), erosion along the canal, bathing this in _____ (?). Red and yellow vectors represent the former and new shoreline as well as damage for the agriculture feature on the top image.

And before some evidence of the wave transported by the _____ (unclear), transported by the wave at Ban Gang Sak Province, Phang-Nga Province. Even though this is located about 10 metres above main sea level and the wave can reach about 400 metres from the coastline. This was taken by the QuickBird.

In _____ (?) to the Ban Bang Niang, Phang-Nga Province, we saw that the wave can reach four ways from the coast, about 2.2 kilometres, there were a lot of hotels and _____ (?) were damaged here. In relation of the wave hit the Phang-Nga coastline, we _____ (?) image in _____ in damage. The wave spread all over the coastal. Generally, this Phang-Nga coastal is _____ (not clear) shoreline and then, of course, that area with the two to three metres above the main sea level. So the human settlement are possible and popular around this shoreline.

And following the perspective IKONOS image made us more understand the general area affected and _____ (not clear) the effort to area is shown in the _____ (not clear).

And we move to the Phuket island. This is the Phuket island from space taken by the LANDSAT and AIS (?). The effective _____ occur only the base part of the island and I will show you more detail on the pre-example size _____ Kammala Beach, Patong Beach or _____ Beach. And these are the pre- and post-IKONOS image presenting the shoreline damage at the Kammala Beach.

For the next slide you can see the shoreline damage on the after image. And for the global (?) image to the building damage be hardly (?) shown.

And this also worked out (?) to the Patong Beach at the south part of the beach. The coastal erosion were clouded (?) and displayed in yellow vector. And compared to the damaged shoreline in the red colour, on the image, both colour of the swimming pool can tell us the damage or not. If they are damaged, the water becomes black.

And that is another slide of _____ tang (?) Beach, nearby Patong Beach. This was mainly damaged. The wave hit from the both sides and caused damage to roads and buildings.

And more towards (?) the Karon Beach, you can see the reservoir what disappeared, after the tsunami even. The former and new shoreline where this is displayed in red and yellow _____ (?). For the conclusion, the high- and low-resolution satellite data in _____ (?), with GIS and GPS, are very useful in tsunami disaster monitoring and management and they offer an excellent opportunity for creating a long-term database for the purpose of risk assessment.

The recommendation is the satellite data should be acquired during the low tide period in order to update the shoreline map.

As this area will recover and most welcome of you to visit the land of Siam (?).

Thank you for your attention.

(Note from typist: this speaker was very difficult to understand and apologize for the gaps.)

Mr. P. TARIKHI (Second Vice Chairman) (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you Mr. Ariyaprucha for your statement under agenda item 7 and Ms. Pol-Ngam for your presentation.

Are there any questions?

I see none.

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 this afternoon. We will reconvene promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 7, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Second Session, and agenda item 8, Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Fourth Session.

Time permitting, we will also continue our consideration of agenda item 6, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

At 4.00 p.m., we will begin the Symposium on Space and Archaeology which will be chaired by Mr. Hernández of UNESCO.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I would like to remind delegates that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will continue its intersessional meeting in Room C0713 this afternoon, and the Ad Hoc Expert Group studying the possibility of creating a disaster management international space coordination entity will also continue meeting in Room C0431 on the fourth floor.

In addition, the Working Group on Space Debris of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will hold its intersessional meeting in Conference Room VII starting at 2.00 p.m. this afternoon.

This meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 12.41 p.m.