

**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript*548<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Friday, 17 June 2005, 10 a.m.

Vienna

*Chairman:* Mr. A. A. Abiodun (Nigeria)*The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Good morning distinguished delegates and representatives, I now declare open the 548<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning, we will resume our consideration of agenda item 6, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III, only to consider one outstanding paragraph in the non-paper circulated yesterday.

We will also begin and conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, Composition of the Bureaux of the Committee and its Subsidiary Bodies for the Period 2006-2007, and continue and conclude agenda item 13, Other Matters.

We will also begin the adoption of the Report of the Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 14.

**Implementation of the recommendations of  
UNISPACE III (agenda item 6)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to resume and conclude our consideration of agenda item 6, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

In this connection, I would like also to return to our discussions on the non-paper U-III/Np/2, which reflects modifications to CRP.17 on the basis of discussions yesterday morning and to limit our discussions to the penultimate sentence in the sixth

paragraph which begins with "In the case of the Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean ...".

I now open the floor for final comments on this issue.

I recognize the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia.

**Mr. C. AREVALO** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I have the great pleasure to report to the room that yesterday afternoon we held a meeting of the Latin American Group and the Caribbean and it had the attendance of a number of delegations from the region. They were all those who that are present in the Committee, of course. And thanks to the very active and good participation of Brazil and Mexico, most particularly, to whom we would like to express our gratitude, we were able to, as I said, thanks to their efforts, reach a consensus in the region. This consensus was duly conveyed to Dr. Camacho and I would ask that he would be so kind as to share that consensus with the Committee.

By way of conclusion, I would like to most especially thank the delegation of Canada. Canada is a country that participated very actively in space activities in Latin America. Canada has demonstrated solidarity with regard to the principles underpinning the Space Conference of the Americas and a great deal is owed to Canada and again, thanks to their efforts as well, we were able to achieve a consensus on this paragraph. So on behalf of GRULAC, we would like to express our willingness to continue working most firmly along their sides and with them and we would

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invite them to participate in our Conference in Quito next year, the Space Conference of the Americas.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to request, through you, that Dr. Camacho convey the contents of the consensus.

Thank you Sir.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia for that intervention on agenda item number 6.

I give the floor to Dr. Camacho to address the Committee.

**Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA** (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will explain the agreement that was reached which consists of then, it has two parts. One is a modification to the text in the CRP, on the non-paper that we were working. And then, there is a short paragraph for the report. So the text that you are receiving right now, I trust all delegations have received one non-paper that has the symbol U-III/Np/2/Rev.1. The text that you have there is in relation to that non-paper which is in relation to the CRP. The text is not to be included in the report. This is just the CRP.

And now if you would take, in the report that is easier to follow, if you would take Add.4, L.259/Add.4, and turn to page 5, and I will wait. I have been informed that Add.4 is in the pigeonholes so I will work on the non-paper that we had yesterday. It does not have the number so I will identify them as they are identified in the non-paper, Rev.1, that you have right now.

You will notice it begins "The Committee recalled that ..." and that is just to identify the placing of the paragraphs. You will remember if we count paragraphs, paragraph 6. In the sixth paragraph, we yesterday had received a proposal from the United States to separate that paragraph into two paragraphs. One that would begin, if you go down eight lines in that sixth paragraph, the proposed language by the United States had been "The Committee agreed that the Office would promote cooperation ..." and so. That is in yesterday's modifications.

If you look at the non-paper that has just been circulated right now, that is the first paragraph that appears in bold.

Then the next sentence is the one that was outstanding yesterday. And the next paragraph in bold,

what you have in front of you, replaces that sentence that was outstanding. I will give a minute or so for delegations to read it.

And then the last sentence that appears in that sixth paragraph in yesterday's non-paper will be the one that is indicated in the paper that was just distributed. It just has the beginning. This, Mr. Chairman, was the agreement reached by GRULAC, in consultation, I understand, with other States, and this agreement is for the CRP only. There will be a proposed text for the report which is one sentence. It is being copied. When we come to that part of the report, you will have it before you. It will be a one sentence but that will be later on.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank you Dr. Camacho for that intervention.

Distinguished delegates, do I take it that you agree to the agreed text submitted by GRULAC to us through the Office and read out by Dr. Camacho?

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just so I am clear. The non-paper 2/Rev.1, the paragraph beginning "The Committee also expressed the importance of coordination activities", those two sentences are what will be inserted into the report?

**The CHAIRMAN:** If you would like to, Dr. Camacho.

**Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA** (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. No, this non-paper, Rev.1, does not go into the report. This is just the agreement. This goes to the CRP. We will issue a Rev on that CRP.

And in the report, there will be one sentence, which right now is being copied, and will be distributed so you will look at that sentence before we adopt it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for that clarification.

Then do we suspend item 6 until that one sentence is circulated and then we come back to it?

Colombia.

**Mr. C. AREVALO** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, I just have a question of procedure. The CRP will be related to the final report, how Sir?

**Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA** (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): The CRP, most of that text is already in the draft report except for the sentence that was being discussed yesterday. So that sentence that is in brackets in the draft report, the CRP would be there except for that sentence. What I understood was that this text does not go into the report only that other sentence that is coming here. So all the rest of the CRP will be in the report.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Dr. Camacho, do you have your own version of that one sentence you can read for the attention of the Committee while they are waiting for the one to be circulated? Do you have a rough copy of it? You do not.

**Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA** (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): No, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK. Can we then suspend the action on that?

Nigeria.

**Mr. J. CHABO** (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not intend to complicate matters but we agree with your decision to suspend until we see this sentence. But while Dr. Camacho was drawing our attention to the arrangement in Addendum.4, some of us have also been reading your report and we will reserve the right to come back to the present paragraph 33 of this report at the appropriate time. We just want to place it on record because it appears that that paragraph will be contradictory as, since this is an agreement by the Committee, it would be contradictory to set an aspect of the report on Addendum.1, especially page 5 of Addendum.1. So there we will probably need to make some realignment and we will come to this at the appropriate time. Just to let the Committee know that we reserve the right to come back to paragraph 33.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. Can I please request Nigeria to meet with the Secretariat and probably the Ambassador of Colombia and resolve this before we get there so that we do not have a lengthy debate when we get there. I think this would be very essential. Can you please draw this to

the attention so that this is resolved and when we come to adopt the report, that portion is just read to us and we move on. OK? Please, I beg you.

**Mr. J. CHABO** (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, that will be fine except I do not think the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia has anything to do with this. If you read paragraph 33, it says "The Committee agreed that the Regional Centres".

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK, bring it to the Secretariat then and let them see what they can do about it. I thank you very much.

Distinguished delegates, so we suspend agenda item 6. We are in a very delicate part of our meeting and I need everybody's attention.

### **Composition of the Bureaux (agenda item 12)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin and conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, Composition of the Bureaux of the Committee and its Subsidiary Bodies for the Period 2006-2007.

As you are aware, four regional groups have agreed on their candidates for the Bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007. We are still waiting for the Group of Asian States to provide the Committee with their nomination for the office of the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

In that connection, I will now give the floor to Mr. Arshad Siraj of Pakistan, who will address this Committee, at this session, on this issue, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. Siraj, you have the floor.

**Mr. A. H. SIRAJ** (Pakistan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I regret to inform you that at present I do not have the names of the Asian Group's agreed candidate for the post of the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to convey to you. Nevertheless, I may convey that intensified discussions and efforts are going on in the Group to reach upon a consensus candidate.

Therefore, in view of this ongoing process of negotiations, I would request you, and through you, the Committee, to allow the Asian Group some more time enabling it to reach a single candidate. The agreed name would be conveyed in due course of time.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

In connection with the composition of the Bureaux for the 2006-2007, I recommend that we end our debate on that subject, having listened to Pakistan. And also appeal to Pakistan, in its capacity as Chairman of the Asia Group, and between now and the General Assembly to please assist this Committee in resolving this issue so that when February comes next year, we can have a Chairman on this desk to supervise our meeting.

If that arrangement is agreed, we conclude our debate then on this issue for 2006-2007.

Distinguished delegates, is this agreeable to you?

Thank you very much.

In December, as you know, in the arrangement made for the rotation of offices and regional representation, which we all agreed to earlier on, this is the first time we are implementing that arrangement, so this office in the Bureaux now, we hand over beginning February, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will hand over, the Legal will hand over their and I will hand over in June next year to Mr. Brachet of France. But we are supposed to start thinking as from this meeting on the composition of the Bureaux for period 2008-2009. And according to the table of that arrangement, which all of you have, it is in our report of A/58(?) /20, that is our report of two years ago, 2003. The GRULAC Group is supposed to provide COPUOS with a Chairman beginning 2008, June. The Group of Asian States should provide the First Vice-Chairman of the Committee. The Western and European and Other Groups and Other States should provide the Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee. And the Group of African States should provide the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, beginning the year 2008. And the Group of Eastern European States should provide a Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee.

So I draw this information to the attention of all of us and to please start informing the Secretariat of your nominations or your agreed nominations at the regional level so that the Committee will have an easy task of addressing these issues, beginning next year.

I understand that Professor Cassapoglou wants to tell us something on this.

Professor Cassapoglou, you have the floor.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good morning to everybody. As Greece, as chairing the Western European and Other Countries Group, we would like to announce that it had decided to propose for the post of the Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the main Committee for the biennium 2008 and 2009, Professor Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal. As you may know, Professor Santos is a full Professor of Physics, Geophysics and Environment of the University of Lisbon. He has been Dean of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, between 1991 until 1995. Then the delegate of Portugal to the United Nations COPUOS from 1999 until now, and also the delegate of Portugal to the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank Professor Cassapoglou for that information which has been noted by all delegates and has been recorded by the Secretariat.

Do we have any other nomination from any other Working Group or their respective 2008-2009 positions, as I read out earlier?

OK, if not, can we please start working very hard at our regional group level to have these issues resolved by the time of our next COPUOS. By the time of our next COPUOS, we will resolve all of this at our regional level and bring information to be addressed at that time.

OK? So that issue is resolved. I thank everybody for that attention and that decision.

Is that document circulated now with the sentence? Does everyone in the Committee have this sentence? Or who does not have it because the Secretariat believes all of you should have it by now.

Before we close the nomination process, I understand that Portugal wants to address the Committee. Portugal, you have the floor.

**Ms. H. BICHO (Portugal):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would just like to express our Portuguese delegation's thanks and appreciation for the support for our candidate and on behalf of Professor Duarte Santos who was not able to be here today to express our thanks and to tell that he is very pleased to be aware of the candidate's position. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Portugal for that statement.

And with that, we have concluded our deliberation on agenda item 12.

### **Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (agenda item 6)**

The document is being circulated that we are waiting for. So let us take a few minutes to quickly complete that.

Distinguished delegates, the Secretariat has informed me that it would be much easier if you have Addendum.4 of our report which should go along with the one sentence being circulated. So the Secretariat has requested that Addendum.4 be circulated to you.

### **Other matters (agenda item 13)**

The Secretariat has added that it be circulated to you. While that is being done, let me open the floor for Other Matters, agenda item 13, and we have a couple of issues outstanding. In this, we have our Symposium for next year, the Chairman's paper that has been circulated yesterday and our schedule of work for next year.

We will schedule our work for next in terms of when the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees and COPUOS will meet.

So in the meantime, distinguished delegates, I have received a proposal under agenda item 13, Other Matters, from Austria, that this Committee should hold a Symposium on Space and Forests at its forty-ninth session next year. This proposal has been circulated to you, I think through the pigeonholes also, and it is contained in CRP.19, which was distributed yesterday.

We now open the floor for comments from delegations on this subject.

Colombia, you have the floor.

**Mr. C. AREVALO** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. We would like to support Austria's proposal with regard to this. And if there is an opportunity, when Ambassador Lichem spoke on the issue of space and water and the correlation between that and reforestation, woods, forests, etc. There is a very interesting sub-theme there and it is consistent in the general topic of space and water and Colombia

would like to especially endorse Austria's proposal in this regard.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia for this statement.

I invite the distinguished representative of Greece.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We also support and endorse the proposal of Austria, being very sensible in the conservation of not only forests but also the green in our planet, but also especially in Europe and protect the forestry for the so-called development which is destroying the forests.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Austria.

I invite the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

**Mr. J. CHABO** (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Nigerian delegation would like lend its voice to the support already expressed to the proposal by Austria. We also find it very important and with the problem of desertification and biodiversity issues in our own country and it is a welcome idea which is fully supported by the Nigerian delegation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegation of Nigeria for that support.

I invite Professor Kopal, the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

**Mr. V. KOPAL** (Czech Republic): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. My delegation as well supports in holding a COPUOS symposium on space and forestry particularly for two reasons. It would be a good continuation of the symposium that was held here during this session of the Committee on Space and Archaeology. And moreover, we have on our agenda a very important subject, Space and Water, and the symposium might indeed serve as a preparatory step towards the inclusion of an analogous subject on our agenda on space and forestry next year.

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank you Professor Kopal.

Can the Chair take it that, by acclamation, the Committee supports this proposal from Austria?

This idea is agreed and the proposal being made to me on the side is whether we should be looking at forests or forestry and the expression “forests” is more is more encompassing. Just to say space and forests. OK?

That agreed?

*It is so decided.*

So get ready for the symposium next year and I believe the Secretariat will work with the Austrians to organize this.

Yes Sir?

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece): Thank you. Of procedural level, I would like to ask to give the most large information to this decision and I would like, through you, Mr. Chairman, to ask from the Secretariat of the Office to prepare a special letter to our embassies here, in order to this to be disseminated it through our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the various competent authorities.

Just not to wait for the publication of the communication of the report of the Committee in order to ask from our Ministries of Agriculture or Environment, etc. It is better to have an official letter from the Office to the embassies here in order to be disseminated to our competent authorities, local or national authorities.

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank you Professor Cassapoglou. And I am sure the Secretariat has taken note of your request.

#### **Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (agenda item 6)**

Distinguished delegates, can we move on now? Can we go back to agenda item 6? I think they have finished circulating this paper. Not yet?

OK, does every delegation have Addendum.4? Is there any delegation that does not have Addendum.4? Everybody has it.

I now invite the Director to please take us through.

**Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA** (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. After consulting on the order, this is what I understand.

If the distinguished representatives would turn to page 5 of Addendum.4, you will notice that paragraph 32 is in brackets. That is the sentence that was in the non-paper yesterday and which there was not(?) agreement and was consulted and two pieces of paper have been distributed to you this morning.

So the proposal that is being made is that paragraph 32 would be substituted for the second paragraph that appears in U-III/Np/2/Rev.1. That is the page that has two paragraphs in bold. So 32 in the draft report would be substituted for that second paragraph.

And then there would be a 32 *bis* which would be the single sentence that you have on a plain piece of paper that has no identification.

So these would be the two proposals for insertion into the text. So when the Committee comes to adoption, we would then advise the Chairman so that he would recall the text and these two pieces of paper would be considered together.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. I understand from the GRULAC delegations that this is what they agreed to yesterday and it reflects their consensus opinion.

Distinguished delegates, can we accept this?

The United States.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would just have, at least, an editorial change to the proposed paragraph 32, found in non-paper 2/Rev.1.

I would suggest that in the third to last line of that paragraph, where it begins “... Caribbean” and then the acronym and “The Committee expressed the relevance of”, I would suggest that, at least in English, it would read “The Committee underscored the importance of coordination between”. So I would delete “expressed the relevance of the” and insert “underscore the importance of”.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States and for your assistance in strengthening that paragraph.

Can we adopt the paragraph and move on?

I see no objection.

That means then that we have concluded our debate on agenda item 6.

*It is so decided.*

### **Other matters (agenda item 13)**

Now we continue our consideration of agenda item 13, Other Matters.

And the next issue here is the Chairman's paper that was circulated yesterday, "Planning for Future Roles and Activities of the Committee". We debated this yesterday and we agreed to continue for that discussion this morning, if necessary.

I now invite distinguished delegates who may wish to ask for the floor on this subject.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of India.

**Mr. M.Y.S. PRASAD** (India): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Indian delegation carefully examined the presentation and content of Dr. Karl Doetsch and the non-paper \_\_\_\_\_(?) by you. We wish to compliment both of you for your vision. As you said yesterday, the dreams and the thoughts of certain individuals are essential to plan for a sound future.

We also noted your explanation yesterday that the Terms of Reference, given the \_\_\_\_\_(?) are not(?) flexible at this stage. We add that the Terms of Reference should contain subjects and issues of relevance to developing countries because the space capabilities of various countries today are very uneven.

With these comments, we fully endorse your proposal on establishing the long-term planning working group.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of India, Mr. Prasad, for that statement and for his support of the Chairman's proposal.

I now invite the distinguished representative of China.

**Mr. W. SU** (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you very much for the excellent report. We would like to thank Dr. Doetsch(?) for his excellent report. As concerns his proposal, which is envisaged as the future role for our group, we also appreciate that proposal as well. We believe that this has come just at the right time and we certainly appreciate the non-official document, non-paper which has been distributed.

The Chinese delegation believes that our Committee should very carefully look into the planning of future activities and the ways and means in which to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space, to ensure that space technology is going to be contributing to the welfare of all mankind so that all will be able to draw benefit from this common heritage.

We, in our Committee, have existed for some half a century and the world has changed considerably in this stretch of time. The Committee has to change along with it. It has always continued its work. There has been three UNISPACE Conferences and now we have to see how the recommendations of UNISPACE III, the last of these major conferences, are being implemented. This is something which strengthens the work done by our Committee.

Mr. Chairman, you have suggested now that a group be set up for the long-term work. We believe that this is a very interesting idea. The non-paper has gone into this idea, into the mandate of our work. We believe that this is something of great practical importance. We must be prudent about the way in which we advance on this matter. We must take into consideration all of the factors which can possibly have to be taken into due consideration before taking a decision on the orientations that are to be espoused and the decision to set up a group for the long-term activities of our work.

We believe that, for the time being, the proper time has not come to set up this group. It is not that we are against having the Committee considering how this could possibly take place in the future, but as to the procedures and the exact way that this would be done, we believe that the members first have to think this through properly and exchange their views on this. And possibly, when we next meet, we could stage a

discussion to thoroughly go into the details of this matter. We believe that that would be the proper way of going about this. The next time, I believe, that we could see our way rather more clearly and that would allow for support to be expressed by many more Member States.

Thank you.

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

The distinguished representative of Hungary.

**Mr. E. BOTH** (Hungary): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. My delegation, first of all, highly appreciates and thanks the valuable presentation by Dr. Karl Doetsch. Based upon what we heard in his presentation, we think that it is reasonable and important that you prepare this non-paper proposing a working group dealing with the future plans of COPUOS. So we fully support the content of this non-paper.

Since you list some tasks for this meeting of COPUOS, let me reflect to these three items which you mention here as the tasks of the present meeting of COPUOS.

You write in your non-paper that COPUOS should reach an agreement to establish a long-term planning working group so I think most of the delegations who took the floor before me agreed that it is necessary and my delegation also agrees that it is necessary and important to establish such a working group.

And concerning the draft Terms of Reference, let me refer to your introductory sentence where you mentioned appropriate regional and organizational representation and let me propose that, among the members of this working group, perhaps some international or non-governmental organization dealing with space or space applications, space-related issues, could also be invited. Perhaps it could be reasonable, if other delegations agree, that some representatives of industrial, international organizations could be involved in the work of this working group.

Your next task for the present meeting of COPUOS is to appoint an interim leader of the working group. Since all the delegates taking the floor before me highly appreciated Dr. Karl Doetsch's presentation, let me propose that this Committee should request Dr. Karl Doetsch to chair, or at least to be the interim leader, of this working group.

Finally, concerning your \_\_\_\_\_(?) task for this meeting, let us take note that the regional groups require time to agree to delegate some experts to this group but it would advantageous if the Office could request the regional groups to nominate their candidates as soon as possible into this working group.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Are there any further contribution to this subject?

Greece.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. With regard to this proposal for the chairmanship of the Committee, there is a problem, in fact there are a number of problems here, because the truth is that what we have here is a subject which is of an institutional nature. It is a subject, vis-à-vis, which we need to take an attitude of substance and I think it is almost unanimous that there is a desire to strengthen and support the role of our Committee and its two Subcommittees. But the main problem is one of representation of the regions. And that then leads to another problem which is one of coordination within regional groups and doing so in such a way that we can have a collective idea, regionally speaking. And then, supposing that they were able to come to an agreement on the substance of a proposal, that might then lead to the appointment of a representative.

And then there is another issue, Mr. Chairman, and that is the issue of representation of other moral persons, above and beyond States. In my view, if I understood correctly, amongst the Group of 15 there would be 10 representing States and five representing other entities, or other organizations. And that also leads to institutional legal problems and, if I may say so Sir, it actually goes to the heart of legitimization of representatives' participation for non-State Members. What we have had, as our practice to date, has been observers. These other entities play the role of observers, but we have never accepted other organizations, in the broader sense of the term, as anything other than observers and only a few observers at that.

So perhaps we can think about concluding this discussion in this session because the text that you put on the table yesterday is difficult to even convene



regional group meetings to get a first reaction to the proposal. The proposals here are individual proposals, more or less, and we cannot really get a very clear idea of the total situation.

With regard to what was said before me, I think, Mr. Chairman, that we can gather from what has been said that we need more time to reflect, Mr. Chairman, and we could perhaps postpone the decision to the next session of the full Committee.

Thank you Sir.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, we have a lot of work ahead of us and, therefore, I would suggest the following.

Having listened to delegations yesterday and today, there is what I call a great interest in the Committee in looking ahead. Most delegations are concerned about not looking at the future. They want to look at the future. So that is the message we got from Karl Doetsch. I think what we have a problem with, if I can call it a problem, is how to arrive at looking at that future, the process. We cannot do so by just saying we are interested in looking at the future and go away. We have to put a process in place. I have proposed a complete process which I said also was flexible and there would be no other session of this Committee that can reflect on the presentation made by Karl Doetsch other than this very session. Therefore, it behoves this session of COPUOS to take certain decisions.

One, we have all agreed that space is advancing and the Committee must change with time. That is agreed. I have proposed, therefore, that we get an individual to give us, to lead us into how to change with time. Hungary has suggested that we should invite Dr. Karl Doetsch to take that job. I have also proposed that the following are some of the agenda items and I said also this is flexible. So what may be possible, if that we agree on a Chairman at this meeting, then we now have a Chairman to come up with a paper for us at the next meeting.

So this would be my proposal. Because as I said, the ad hoc working group I am proposing is not a decision-making body, it is an advisory body. This body has to take a decision of whatever I said by that ad hoc working group. I said yesterday most of the things that have been said here this morning. If you can agree that the membership should be two, the membership should 10, should be 15, that is not really

critical. What is critical is that we have to do something. I also said that the ad hoc group is not a permanent group. It is a group that would take ideas from Member States, from space agencies, from NGOs like IAF, COSPAR, ISPRS and so on down the line. We take ideas from United Nations intergovernmental organizations or from anywhere that can benefit. It is an open-ended thing for them to do.

As I said, having gathered all of us, then we need to proceed and just stop there and get this gentlemen or whomever, or gentlewoman, whomever we agree on, to move ahead and come to COPUOS next year with more concrete information than contained in my paper.

Venezuela has the floor.

**Ms. N ORIHUELA** (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, I think we all agree on the importance of the issue contained in this proposal. Given the importance of the subject, the suggestions of different countries such as China and Greece are made with a view to addressing the need for all regions to participate and this, however, does not in any way contradict support for this proposal. We do support the proposal. The issue here is that the final review and that the working group would be established at the next session once countries have had a chance to set up their representation for that working, once they have had a chance to grapple with that.

Venezuela particularly believes that the issue is vital, it is fundamental, and, therefore, we require specialist for this but having said that, we would like to participate and to have representatives from all regions in the world who are interested in this subject and give them the option to participate.

So the only proposal I am hearing here is approve, support this but implement it once countries have had a chance to study this more in-depth and decide how representation should take place on the working group.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much distinguished representative of Venezuela.

Before any other delegation makes any other input, I think I need to clarify what you have said. My intervention had nothing to do with representation. What I said, let us take the proposal of Hungary, let us agree on a person and let that person then take the Chairman's proposal, all the elements there. And who

is going to be there? It is up to the individual regions to select whomever they want in the group which is not being selected by the Committee. It is not being selected by the Chairman or COPUOS or the ad hoc working group itself. But what I have said is that you cannot come to the next meeting without somebody doing the work and fleshing out what is in this Chairman's paper, whether it is participation of members, whether it is participation of international organizations, whether it is the Terms of Reference, and so on and so forth and the reporting period to COPUOS. Somebody has to take that responsibility. So what I have suggested is let us agree, we agree on one thing, we need to do this. Then let us agree on somebody to guide us and that is all. And then we stop there. When we do that then we will shift all the paperwork to him, to come back to us next year and give us a fresher(?) proposal then we know we are on the right track to do something. That is all I said. I have not denied any region any participation.

Just excuse me, Professor Kopal. Greece, United States of America, Professor Kopal. OK.

Nigeria? Greece first please.

Let us wind this down because we have to adopt our report. Go ahead.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I regret to not be saying that I am agreeing with the proposal because even the proposal put forth by my distinguished colleague from Hungary should be studied by regional groups. In my view, we cannot take a decision on a matter which is so important at the very last minute of our meeting even though we still have a great deal of work ahead of us with the report of the Committee yet to approve. So I would repeat I regret having to do this but I do think we need to postpone the entire examination of this subject to later.

And there is another dimension of this matter which I think it is important to draw the attention of all colleagues present here. If we insist on this, it is as if we were acknowledging that our Committee, to date, that is right now, it is as if we were acknowledging that it was or is not efficient, not effective. We have been able to work for some years with a plan for the coming years and we have worked on all subjects, be they in the Committee, be they in the Legal Subcommittee or the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We have been able to make headway with a plan that extends out only three or four years into the future.

So maybe we need longer-term plans but our Committee has been able to work efficiently and successfully for some years without having the advisory planning group in existence.

And given the institutional and legal problems that arise in this matter, because in my view, in order to elect the members and to decide on the establishment, then the constitution of it and the Bureaux of it, we would need to have a resolution from the United Nations, from the General Assembly of the United Nations. We would need that in order to proceed. So that further complicates the evolution of this process that started yesterday afternoon with your very important proposal.

So legitimization of the various stages is at stake here so we need to look at doing this next year, having once examined the matter in our capital cities and then looking at it with our partners at a regional level.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Dr. Cassapoglou.

Distinguished delegates, after the United States, Czech Republic and Nigeria, can we agree to close the debate on this issue please?

I invite the distinguished representative of the United States.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first let me express my delegations appreciation to Karl Doetsch for the excellent presentation on the history of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. I think that we can all be proud of the accomplishments of the Committee and I think Karl's presentation underscores the importance of the work of the Committee over the past 50 years.

My delegation certainly can support the concept of forward-looking activity in the Committee, whether it be within the Committee itself or among a group of experts. I think they both have merit. And we certainly could support the idea of trying to move this concept as far forward as we possibly can here today.

But I would like to take a different view of why we would engage in this exercise. As my delegation pointed out in its statement under agenda item 5 on ways and means of maintaining outer space

for peaceful purposes, the record of the Committee, particularly over the past 10 to 15 years, and that of one of accomplishment, and in our view, it has been underscored by the ability of the Committee and the Subcommittees to adopt flexible ways of conducting its work.

So in our view, we are looking forward because somehow we are stuck in time and that the world is racing past us. We are looking forward because, in fact, there are useful things we can do. In any exercise that we undertake, my delegation would very much like to see that we have an agreement on what the basic fundamental issue we are looking at. We have adjusted our agendas in order to be flexible. We have added new items. We have negotiated principles and we are conducting work in nuclear power sources and in orbital debris. In my delegation's view, we are looking at those issues that are relevant. I am not suggesting for a moment that we cannot improve and we certainly should improve but I do not want the report of this Committee to leave the impression that somehow there is a consensus that the Committee simply is not relevant and if the Committee has stuck to old ways of doing business and has not adjusted to the realities of the current situation.

And the final point I would like to make in this regard is, in my intervention under agenda item 5 on ways and means, we also pointed out that the Committee, in fact, at an objective level, is relevant to the space community at large. If you look at the number of countries that want to become members of the Committee. If you look at the number of countries that want to be observers to the Committee and if you look at the number of non-governmental and international organizations that have participated in the work of the Committee as well as in the Action Teams and in UNISPACE III, you can only conclude that there is some interest out there.

So if there is another measure that we need to use in evaluating the future of the Committee, my delegation is open to look at it. But to make a blanket conclusion that somehow we are out of touch with the rest of the space community, my delegation is not entirely convinced of that. But in the end we are very much supportive of the idea of looking forward. We have some other ideas on how this might be structured but I do not want to take up any more of your time at this point, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much distinguished representative of the United States.

I invite the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

**Mr. J. CHABO (Nigeria):** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Let me also thank the distinguished delegate from the United States for his wonderful expose which were, to a considerable extent also, some of the thoughts on our mind. And it is precisely because of some of the points he has said, carefully enunciated it, that we actually we need to move the process forward, bearing in mind some of the things he had mentioned. And we see us here, a agreeing on the fundamentals but disagreeing on the procedure on how to proceed. I believe we should be looking at the substance rather than more of the procedure. They are both equally important but we would be dissipating energy on how to proceed to the point of perhaps deviating from where we are heading to. We want to be looking at the future.

And, Mr. Chairman, you have also given us a wonderful proposal. I am just wondering what we will be coming back to discuss again. We have started a debate since yesterday. The debate is already on about the future of what the Committee should be doing, not that the Committee is irrelevant, not that the Committee has not been doing its job, but we are looking at how we can further improve the workings of the Committee, how the Committee can be in tune with developments in the area of space science and space technology.

And frankly, Mr. Chairman, if we are to postpone this discussion until the next session, we are probably going to be saying the same thing. So if we are all in agreement that we need to be looking at the future, then perhaps we can look at ways of modifying your proposal that Dr. Karl Doetsch can be \_\_\_\_\_(?) with, enunciating some or rather giving us a kind of a concept on agenda(?), we agree that he would probably be the interim Chairman in terms of composition and all those things. These are issues that he has had due consultations with, our capitals, with regional groups here and then we could arrive at the next session. But I frankly believe that we need a kind of momentum to be sustained and we need something along the lines you have suggested so that not just reflecting this in our report and the General Assembly being aware of what we are trying to do but perhaps, as the distinguished delegate from Hungary suggested, we can still make and, rightly put by Mr. Chairman, we can use the expertise of Dr. Karl Doetsch to further look into some of these suggestions and give us ideas that we all then come back to discuss, to be circulated in between the session so that at the next session, then

we can take firm decisions on how the working group will proceed.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

I invite Professor Kopal of the Czech Republic.

**Mr. V. KOPAL** (Czech Republic): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was thoroughly impressed by the last intervention of the distinguished representative of Nigeria. My way of thinking on this issue would be very similar to what he has just said. If we simply postpone the discussion on any part of your proposal, it would mean indeed loss of one year. We will then start next year again from scratch. But I believe that the proposal made before by our distinguished colleague from Hungary was very reasonable. We should at least appoint somebody who would take care of the further preparatory work and for this reason, my delegation does not see any other capable and experienced candidate than Dr. Karl Doetsch, because if he approved it as the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, he proved his capability in organizing the work for the discussion of UNISPACE III + 5 at the last General Assembly and he initiated this action that we are now discussing.

And I would return to the suggestion of our colleague from Hungary when he said that we should appoint him as Chairman or at least as temporary leader who would start working on it and who might prepare the first draft of actions that might be in sight for the next period of five years. And, therefore, I support this idea. I support what you have proposed and I would act immediately.

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK. Thank you very much Professor Kopal.

That brings to a conclusion our debate on this issue at this session.

Distinguished delegates, you heard other speakers that spoke on this item.

Before I give my final comment at this session on this subject, I have a proposal for you to agree or otherwise. And that is, having listened to Karl Doetsch, having read my paper, having listened to all the debates of other colleagues, we agree to appoint a

leader, and Dr. Karl Doetsch been suggested as an interim leader, to now take all the papers that have been proposed, that are on the ground and come up with a working document for the next session of COPUOS. Without this Committee taking a decision on any other thing other than to ask him we agree to look forward. The Chairman has made a proposal. You heard delegates express their concerns. Take all these concerns and the Chairman's proposal and come up with a working document the Committee can agree upon.

Please make that as brief as possible. Thank you. Professor Cassapoglou.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. Chairman, I hate to say it but you are putting us straight into a deadlock situation. The discussion has individualized, as it were, without our really determining whether who is going to be actually authorized to lead this group. We have not decided to set this group up yet. And here we are going to be appointing the leader for a group that does not exist? That is the impression that is what is happening. That is the impression I get. And it is very clear that we do not have a consensus on the proposal that you have made.

As you know, I really appreciate what Professor Doetsch's done, contributing to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee over the last couple of years. It was his idea to present this contribution. But there is a problem arising and I would like to emphasize this. It is an institutional problem. We cannot go any further.

I think that we risk losing something if we do not deal with this matter properly. I think that we really have to deal with this next year. We would be in a better situation next year. I do not know why we absolutely want to make headway on this process now. This emerged from the idea of engaging in long-term planning in this Committee and its two Subcommittees. We have not even started the discussion of the report, that has to be done too. This is a matter which is of great and vital importance for the existence of the Committee, this designation of a person to lead this work to accompany the idea that has emerged and resulted in this possible committee. It has been almost 30 years that I have been involved in this Committee. I have never seen this sort of pressure before. There is no consensus reflecting the ideas expressed here. I think that we must give delegations time to think about this. I think it is very democratic for us, to allow ourselves time to think about this.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I know some other delegations are requesting the floor and we have to adopt our report. What I want the distinguished delegates to recognize that, inasmuch as the delegation has a position on any issue, and is expressing its view, it is the obligation of the Chair to equally bring to the attention of the house, the views being expressed by others. And I am sorry to be specific but I have to be. My friend from Greece, after you spoke, other delegations spoke, contrary to what you stated and I was just summarizing what they stated. They put the proposal on the floor. You put the proposal. Just because a delegation put a proposal, that does not mean other delegations have no views. I want us to appreciate that. It is very important. Hungary gave a view, Nigeria gave a view, Professor Kopal summarized the two views and I was just trying to see if this was acceptable to the house. Not only that, you misrepresented what I said. I did not say Karl Doetsch was going to be an interim leader of any working group. I said let us agree to pass all the discussions and papers we have had before us to Karl Doetsch to digest and come to this meeting next year with a working paper for us. That is what I said. I did not say Karl Doetsch as the leader of an ad hoc working group. And you misled the Committee by saying that was what I said and that is not correct.

So distinguished delegates, if we cannot even agree on my new thing because Professor Kopal made an important thing. What are you coming here to discuss next year if there is no document before you? And that is the essence of asking Karl Doetsch to look at our debate, to look at its paper, to look at my Chairman's paper and to look at all your suggestions and then come up how can we move this forward? Even if did you really want to move forward. That is all.

If that is agreed, then we will take a decision on that. If it is not, then we do not take a decision on that because we need to close the debate.

That is the only issue on the table now, to invite Karl Doetsch to come back to us next year on how to move this protest forward, with a working document, having taken into consideration all the issues before us.

Is this agreed?

Colombia has the floor.

**Mr. C. AREVALO** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am going to try to demonstrate a constructive approach to try to find a way out.

Two points. Firstly, we are not casting into question the visionary qualities and competence of Karl Doetsch. Everyone has recognized this quite clearly. But apparently there has not been consensus on the situation. Now, what are the alternatives? I would propose the following. Let us give the Secretariat the responsibility of organizing the consultations with the key players, including Professor Karl Doetsch, to draft a document. In this way, we would have a reference document as a basis for our work next year and that would avoid undue complications for this debate.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Canada. If you agree, please allow China be the last intervention. We need to move on.

Canada.

**Mr. D. ALDWORTH** (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is an obvious divisive recommendation that has been put forward. It is a recommendation that Canada very strongly believes in. We do, as per our statement in front of this plenary, under agenda item 13, feel that there is a need to review the activities of COPUOS to ensure that we have a reality check, vis-à-vis, the outside conditions in the space industry, in the space environment, and to ensure what our predecessors thought was a good idea back in 1958, continues to be a good idea and is meeting the needs of the Member States and the global community.

That being said, Karl Doetsch, who I very strongly agree is a visionary, has an interest in doing this but I believe his proposal was very strongly subject to consensus. Although I regret very much that this very valid and, I think, strongly supported in many areas, proposal is not reaching consensus. It probably requires us to debate it more next year.

The next condition, though, that there is, as the representative of Colombia said, a possible way out by having a document placed in front of us because we do need something to discuss next year. So if the Secretariat would organize consultations, including Dr. Doetsch, Canada would very strongly support that.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Canada for that constructive statement.

I give the floor to China. Please be very brief.

**Mr. W. SU** (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Mr. Chairman, I support the Ambassador of Colombia's proposal to reach a consensus. I think that we should finish this point on this proposal.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK. The Office wants to speak.

**Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA** (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think one thing should be clear that the scope of this could be either or ought to be reasonable that the Office can cope with or this could turn into research and consultations. So this will have to be scoped or the Office would not be able to do the results because I see two sides. I see a political side, which is very delicate, and then I see an industrial side, that we do not deal with, and I see maybe another set of players that would have to be consulted. So I think if the Committee is going to give the Secretariat this responsibility, there should be a scope to it. Right now, my impression is that it is completely open-ended and there is no guidance on who we are going to be consulting with, besides governments, of course. But to consult with other players that are indicated, a \_\_\_\_\_(?) just passed(?).

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The last speaker on this list is the distinguished of the United States and we have to close this agenda item please, I beg you.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I regret having to extend the debate on this but the item on what we are talking about is very important. I am fully sympathetic with the views expressed by the distinguished Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. I would be very hesitant to send the Office for Outer Space Affairs off on a task where they are set up for failure because it is quite easy for them to produce a document for which no one is happy. So if we are going to move in the direction our distinguished colleague from Colombia has suggested, it needs to be very clear what we want the Office for Outer Space Affairs to do. And in my delegation's view, at least,

we are not asking the Office for Outer Space Affairs to be a substitute for Dr. Doetsch, in terms of kind of big thinking, what is the future, those sorts of things. My impression is the proposal has been that the Office for Outer Space Affairs could serve as a kind of a mechanism to collecting ideas in order to reach a consensus on how we proceed but we are not asking the Office for Outer Space Affairs to produce the report or a first draft of a report that would be the subject of consideration by an eventual group. Because in my delegation's view, the Office for Outer Space Affairs does not have the time and quite honestly I am not interested in what they think about the future, I am interested in what the Member States think. It is no insult against the Office but it is not a task that they are set up to do. And I would much rather have them concentrate on the work that they need to accomplish over the next year.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Distinguished delegates, I would like to bring to a close our debate on this issue. And if there is any other comment, I would like to suspend the discussion and I will come back to it after we have adopted our reports to a reasonable level.

I will suspend our debate on this issue and when we get to our report where we are supposed to reflect this, I will propose a text with the Secretariat we will have and circulate it to you all.

In the interim period, let me declare a recess of five minutes so that we can read the report before us and we will start adopting our report.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece): Sorry to do that but from the point of view of procedure, we have to decide about the proposal made by our distinguished colleague, the Ambassador of Colombia, supported in the framework of what our distinguished colleague from the United States said. Not postpone for this afternoon, the decision on a very important question. It is completely clear what the Ambassador of Colombia and our distinguished colleague from the United States say. So please be kind enough to ask the Assembly to pronounce on that issue.

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK. I listened to you Professor Cassapoglou. My understanding from the Colombia is that Colombia has suggested that the Secretariat, which was supported by China and Canada, and consult with the entities necessary to produce a document. And the United States want that

we elaborate of what they are expecting. OK? And what I said is that after taking all of this into consideration, as the author of the proposal before you, I will come up with a paragraph in the paper that reflects these views. Alright? That being the case, the proposal of Colombia is on the table. Do you want to go along with that? Dr. Camacho has told you his limitations. Alright?

Are we all in agreement then?

Colombia.

**Mr. C. AREVALO** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have the impression that if we defer debate on this matter until this afternoon, we are going to be actually complicating things. The proposal is very clear. We, of course, respect the Secretariat's work but this is something that should be procedurally very simple. There are various elements include but we do not intend this to be in-depth, very broad-ranging work. That was our idea to start off with.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Does the distinguished representative of Nigeria to talk on this?

**Mr. J. CHABO** (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Somehow the silence of certain delegations is being misconstrued and the first \_\_\_\_\_ (?) of certain presentations is also being taken that there is no consensus. We are very scared. We are worried, in view of the disclosure by Dr. Camacho. We do not want to set up anything for failure, like the distinguished delegate from the United States said. We are totally not comfortable with the suggestion of the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia. I believe we need more time to think and reflect. We are not in the position to go along with that suggestion. Consequently, there is no consensus either. We would like to reflect and take some time.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Alright. What I have said that we have all discussed and what I want to say is the following that we invited the initiative of the Czech delegation. We invited Karl Doetsch to come here to address us. He did. He stimulated us. On the basis of that stimulation, the Chair came up with an action paper to look forward. We all agree that it is essential for this Committee to look forward and now to find a process to accomplish that forward-looking effort. OK?

And then this Committee also agreed to take up this issue next year at its next session. OK? What is missing is the report this Committee is going to consider. If we do not want to add any more reports, that is all I am putting in the report. And that is what I said, to put that before you.

Nigeria. Please.

**Mr. J. CHABO** (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman and I apologize for asking for the floor. We would very much like this process to move forward and we want it to move forward successfully. And in order to do that, we also believe that our delegation must be carried along. There are a few delegations trying to impose their own views on the rest of others, even after so much support has been expressed.

We want to move forward and we want the process to be successful. Consequently, we had a proposal by the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia on the table, as you rightly said, which might not be totally different from what we had in mind to ask Dr. Karl Doetsch to do. But having heard from Dr. Camacho and having listened to the distinguished delegate from the United States, we need some view time to reflect and be clear in our mind what we are trying to ask the Secretariat to do or what the Secretariat can do so that the whole process is not being set up for failure.

That is why we want to go along with your suggestion that probably we need a few minutes or so to reflect over this and discuss with the Secretariat and all the interested delegates and come back in the afternoon. Why must we take a decision now?

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegate of Nigeria. As I said, I have made three or four sentences. The only thing left is what to do. We can add the proposal of Colombia into what I have dictated as a paragraph in the report and if that is agreeable then when we come back to the adopting of the report, we will look at that so that we can close this debate.

Thank you very much.

#### **Report of the Committee to the General Assembly (agenda item 14)**

We now move to the adoption of our report, agenda item number 14.

And in that case, I would like to give you about five minutes to reflect on this. We will continue our meeting at 12.20 p.m. exactly.

*The meeting suspended at 12.10 p.m.*

*The meeting resumed at 12.21 p.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Distinguished delegates, we shall now begin our consideration of our report. And I have before me five documents, A/AC.105/L.259, Addendum.1, Addendum.2, Addendum.3 and Addendum.4.

I now invite our Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, Dr. Parviz Tarikhi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to introduce our reports.

Dr. Tarikhi, you have the floor.

**Mr. P. TARIKHI** (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Distinguished delegates, I would like to introduce the draft report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the General Assembly. The draft report is in five parts. These parts, the symbols, A/AC.105/L.259 and Addenda 1, 2, 3 and 4.

I understand that all five sections have been distributed and are in for the Committee for adoption.

The first part has the symbol A/AC.105/L.259 and it contains the introduction and the recommendations and decisions which contains the section "Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes".

The second part has the symbol A/AC.105/L.259/Add.1 and contains the sections "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Second Session" and the "Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Fourth Session".

The third part has the symbol A/AC.105/L.259/Add.2 and contains the sections "Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology: Review of Current Status" and "Space and Society".

The fourth part has the symbol A/AC.105/L.259/Add.3 and contains the sections "Space and Water", "Composition of the Bureaux of the Committee and its Subsidiary Bodies for the Period of 2006-2007" and "Other Matters".

The fifth part of the report has the symbol A/AC.105/L.259/Add.4 and contains the section "Implementation of the Recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: UNISPACE III".

Distinguished delegates, the draft report of the Committee, as introduced above, is before you for adoption.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank you Sir, Dr. Parviz Tarikhi, our Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for introducing our report.

Distinguished delegates, having listened to him, we will take our report, beginning with Chapter I and we go through each and every one of them paragraph-by-paragraph.

The reports are now open and I begin with our adoption of paragraph 1.

Paragraph 2.

Agreed.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 3. The Secretariat will fill in all the blanks, wherever you see any blank, if it is just a number, the Secretariat will fill it in and any other thing we will discuss as appropriate.

Paragraph 3.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 4, Adoption of the Agenda. We already did that.

*Adopted.*

Membership, paragraph 5.

*Adopted.*

Attendance on page 3, paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Hungary.

**Mr. E. BOTH** (Hungary): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a small comment to paragraph 9. In



the draft report, Addendum.3, Section G, paragraph 2, there is a mention of the Economic Commission for Africa as an observer. I think we should list it here.

Thank you.

I thank the distinguished representative of Hungary, Dr. Both, for that, and our incoming First Vice-Chairman. Sorry to get everything mixed up.

Can we then adopt attendance, paragraphs 6-10?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 11, general statements.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 12.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 13.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 14. I implore delegations to look at this particular session to make sure their names are reflected where appropriate so as not to have any mistakes. And if there is any mistake, you can easily bring that to the attention of the Secretariat even after this meeting.

Paragraph 15.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 16.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 17.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 18.

Agreed?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 19.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 20.

*Adopted.*

Section 5, Adoption of the Report of the Committee. Paragraph 21.

I invite the distinguished representative of Japan to take the floor.

**Mr. M. MIYAKE** (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I have a comment on paragraph 20. This is the presentation from Japan should be moved to the symposium session, I think in Addendum.3, paragraph 33. So we would like to propose a new sentence, after paragraph 33 of Addendum.3 and the symposium. I will read you a new sentence later.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I thank the distinguished representative of Japan and I can assure you that the Secretariat has taken note of your corrections.

With that correction, can we adopt paragraph 20 and then go to paragraph 21?

Paragraph 21.

*Adopted.*

Now we go to Chapter II, Recommendations and Decisions, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

Paragraph 22.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 23.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 24.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 25.

I give the floor to Ukraine.

**Ms. N. ZUBACH** (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to delete one letter and Uzbekistan should be in

parentheses because it is not a member of this Organization.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The Secretariat has taken note of your suggested correction, Madam. Thank you very much.

With that correction, paragraph 25 is adopted?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 26.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 27.

Paragraph 28. Are we adopting that?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 29.

Agreed?

*Agreed.*

Paragraph 30, on page 6.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 31.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 32.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 33.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 34.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 35.

*Agreed.*

Paragraph 36.

*Agreed.*

Paragraph 37.

*Adopted.*

We have, thus, adopted Chapter I of our report. We will come back and make a formal adoption later on of the total document, but Chapter I is adopted.

Now, I invite distinguished delegates to Addendum.1 of our report.

It starts as Chapter II, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Second Session.

Paragraph 1.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 2.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 3.

I give the floor to Thailand.

**Mr. S. ARIYAPRUCHYA** (Thailand): I am going to come in on paragraph 4.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK, paragraph 3 first.

*Adopted.*

Thailand, paragraph 4.

**Mr. S. ARIYAPRUCHYA** (Thailand): Just except that the name of “Somkiat”, there should be an “i” afterwards, “Somkiati”.

**The CHAIRMAN:** “Somkiati”?

OK, with that correction, can we adopt paragraph 4?

Paragraph 5 on page 2 of Addendum.1.

Now the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: Activities of the United Nations on this subject.

Paragraph 6, Section A.

Paragraph 7.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 8.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 9.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 10.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 11.

The United Nations Conferences, Training Courses and Workshops, paragraph 11.

Agreed?

*Agreed.*

Paragraph 12.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 13. 13(a) to 13(h).

Agreed?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 14.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 15.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 16, under Long-Term Fellowships for In-Depth Training.

Paragraph 17 on page 4.

Technical Advisory Services, paragraph 18.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 19 on International Space Information Service, the two paragraphs 19 and 20.

*Adopted.*

Now we go to paragraph 21 on Regional and Interregional Cooperation.

Paragraph 21.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 22.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 23.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 24.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 25.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 26.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 27.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 28.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 29.

I recognize the Ambassador of Colombia.

**Mr. C. AREVALO** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Quite simply on paragraph 29, that is the one we are looking at, correct? Paragraph 29 was subject to a GRULAC amendment, subject to activities suggested by the Pro Tempore Secretariat, Mr. Chairman, we would like to propose some additional text which would synthesize the GRULAC Declaration on this.

If you would be so kind to allow that Sir, I will take it to the Secretariat for their knowledge.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Without any objection to the proposal of the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia, can we adopt that paragraph?

Paragraph 29.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 30.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 31, (a) to (g).

Adopted?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 32 on International Satellite Systems for Search and Rescue.

Paragraph 32.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 33.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 34.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 35.

*Adopted.*

Under Other Matters Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, Including Applications for Developing Countries and Monitoring of the Earth's Environment, paragraph 36.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 37.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 38.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 39.

Paragraph 39 adopted?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 40.

*Adopted.*

Space Debris, paragraph 41.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 42.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 43.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 44.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 45.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 46.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 47.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 48.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 49.

Czech Republic please.

**Mr. P. LÁLA** (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I recognize that there is a different terminology in the United States and in Europe and other countries, I would still recommend to keep with our wording and to put instead of "orbital debris", "space debris", in both cases on line two of this paragraph. And on line three not to interfere with legal terminology, instead of "space assets" to put something like "functional satellites" or something.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic. And I believe the Secretariat has taken note of your corrections.

With that correction, can we adopt paragraph 49 please?

*Adopted.*

Thank you very much for that.

Paragraph 50.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 51.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 52.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 53.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 54.

Now we come to that section of the report that deals with the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. And this we are all very familiar with. I am tempted to separate this into three sections for adoption. If you do not object, can we look at paragraphs 55 through 57?

*Adopted.*

Paragraphs 58 and 59.

*Adopted.*

Paragraphs 60 through 62.

Germany has the floor and then France.

**Mr. R. BRÄUCKER** (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like that the paragraph 60 should be somewhat altered and I would like to have it, I will read the text for it: "The view was expressed that nuclear power sources should not be used in outer space especially in Earth's orbit. If ever, the use should be limited to deep space missions where other power sources cannot be applied."

**The CHAIRMAN:** Did we get that text? If not, read it in dictation speed.

**Mr. R. BRÄUCKER** (Germany): I can read it slower again: "The view was expressed that nuclear power sources should not be used in outer space, especially in Earth's orbit. If ever the use should be limited to deep space missions where other power sources cannot be applied."

**The CHAIRMAN:** Can we adopt that text please as a modification to paragraph 60?

Agreed?

*Adopted.*

France, sorry, not adopted yet, France.

**Mr. C. LECLERC** (France) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you. I would like to refer to paragraph 61. I think this is something my delegation was saying. Instead of saying "to avoid unreasonable extension of the joint work as a result of the different working methods", I would like to suggest the following: "Taking into account the different working methods of these two institutions."

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of France for that correction. The Secretariat has noted it and I believe other delegates have done likewise.

Can we adopt paragraph 61 with the modification from France? Actually, we did not adopt 60 yet. Can we adopt paragraph 60 with the modification from Germany?

*Adopted.*

Now can we adopt paragraph 61 with the modification from France?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 62.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 63.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 64.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 65.

I will invite the Secretariat to make an amendment that they feel will improve the work in the \_\_\_\_\_(?) of paragraph 65.

I invite the Secretariat.

**Ms. N. RODRIGUES** (Deputy Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is just to bring the terminology with what is reflected in L.260. In the third line of paragraph 65 of the English text, starting with “and topics and an indicative schedule of work for the above-mentioned Workshop had been finalized”. So the words “a provisional agenda” should be replaced with “an indicative schedule of work”.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank you the Secretariat for that correction.

Can we adopt paragraph 65 with correction please, distinguished delegates?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 66.

*Adopted.*

Space-System-Based Tele-Medicine,  
paragraph 67.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 68.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 69, Near-Earth Objects.

*Adopted.*

Now we go to Space-System-Based Disaster Management Support.

Paragraph 70.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 71.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 72.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 73.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 74.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 75.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 76.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Thailand.

**Mr. S. ARIYAPRUCHYA** (Thailand): I would like to just modify it just a little. I just read about it. The thought is to say that detection(?), the opening of a National Disaster Centre in Thailand and then continue to note the link also the detection outpost. And then the outpost would link by satellite transmission receivers. I would give the Secretariat the full modification later on. But there is no change in the substantive issue here, just the presentation.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK, we will leave that text. Can we adopt that text with the modification being suggested by Thailand in the understanding that Thailand will give that text to the Secretariat for inclusion in the report?

That being the case, can we adopt this paragraph?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 77.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 78.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 79.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 80.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 81.

Now we are in the section dealing with the geostationary orbit and other related issues.

Paragraph 82.

Greece, you have the floor.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that if it was forgotten to put somewhere under Chapter VII, the Greek proposal concerning the “use of existing United Nations infrastructure of UNISAT”.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I interrupt Professor Cassapoglou, that is coming up later on in Addendum.4.

Can we adopt paragraph 82?

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 83.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 84.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 85.

Now Section IX, Support to Proclaim the Year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year. And this is an interesting section and I do not foresee any controversy.

Can we look at paragraphs 86 and 87 together?

Agreed?

*Adopted.*

Provisional Agenda for the Forty-Third Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Section X.

Cuba has the floor.

**Ms. L. PALACIOS** (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, in the heading of IX, one reads International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year, whereas 87 only the Heliophysical Year is referred to.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The Secretariat has taken note of your correction Madam and they will reflect it in the report accordingly.

Let us go on then to Section X, paragraph 88, under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Draft Agenda for next year.

Paragraph 88.

*Agreed.*

Paragraph 89.

OK, I understand the Secretariat has appealed for interpretation for the next 10 to 15 minutes so we will adjourn in the next 10 to 15 minutes. OK.

Paragraph 89.

Agreed?

*Agreed.*

Paragraph 90.

*Agreed.*

Paragraph 91.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 92.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 93.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 94.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 95.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 96.

On paragraph 96, we have sub-sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and under 1 to 8 on page 15. And under Section 5, we have A through F. So can I suggest we look at 96, Introductory Section, including Sections 1 through 4? We will take it one by one because this is very critical.

General Exchange of Views, Sub-Section 1.

United Nations Programme on Space Applications, Section 2.

UNISPACE III, Section 3.

And then the rest follows.

Section 4.

Up to Section 4, Adopted.

*Adopted.*

Section 5, A through F.

*Adopted.*

Section 6.

*Adopted.*

Section 7.

*Adopted.*

Section 8.

Now we go to page 16. And we are now dealing with the Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Fourth Session.

Paragraph 97.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 98.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 99.

I give the floor to the Republic of Korea.

**Mr.** \_\_\_\_\_ (Thailand) (*speaker not known – not on recording log*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My delegation requests the name of my delegation be included on the list of speakers.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That has been taken note of by the Secretariat.

Paragraph 99 adopted?

*Adopted.*

Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

Paragraph 100.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 101.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 102.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 103.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 104.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 105.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 106.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 107.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 108.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 109.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 110.

*Adopted.*



Paragraph 111.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 112.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 113.

*Adopted.*

Section 2, Information on the Activities of  
International Organizations Relating to Space Law.

Paragraph 114, on page 17.

*Adopted.*

Page 115, on page 18.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 116.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 117.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 118.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 119.

*Adopted.*

Now Section 3, Definition and Delimitation of  
Outer Space, as well as the Characteristics of the  
Geostationary Orbit, and so on and so forth.

Paragraph 120.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 121.

Paragraph 122.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 123.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 124.

*Adopted.*

Paragraph 125.

*Adopted.*

Can we look collectively 126 through 128?

Agreed?

*Adopted.*

Section 4, Review and Possible Revision of  
the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power  
Sources in Outer Space.

Under that section, we have two paragraphs,  
can we look at them together on page 19?

Agreed?

*Adopted.*

Distinguished delegates, with your  
concurrence, I would like to adjourn our meeting for  
this morning and I want to thank the interpreters and  
the engineers for their work.

I invite Professor Kopal.

**Mr. V. KOPAL** (Czech Republic): Mr.  
Chairman, I apologize for my late intervention but  
something is not quite correct in the report in the  
discussion of the Scientific and Technical  
Subcommittee on the geostationary orbit in paragraph  
84. I waited until raising this question, the discussion  
on the report of the Legal Subcommittee because I  
thought there would be something about it and then I  
will talk about both these points. But there is nothing  
wrong in the report of the Legal Subcommittee but it  
seems to me that paragraph 84 in the part dealing with  
the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is not quite  
correct because the logical explanation of this issue is  
rather unusual. "Some delegations referred to the  
consensus reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-  
second session", it is correct. And "stated that now  
given the special characteristic of the geostationary  
orbit, the latter should be considered an integral part of  
outer space." This is not correct simply. We should  
say when referring to the consensus reached by the  
Subcommittee at its forty-second session, we should  
quote, make this reference exactly as this conclusion

was adopted. I beg the Secretariat to check this session in the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to correct it accordingly.

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank you Professor Kopal. This will be taken care of by the Secretariat.

Colombia has the floor. We are going to lose interpretation.

**Mr. C. AREVALO** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I will be very brief Mr. Chairman. It is just to entirely endorse what was just said by Professor Kopal because his country and mine were both very involved in this arrangement. The fact that it refers to the geostationary orbit in this term is not entirely correct. I think that the best thing would be to say "exactly" what was in the agreement, as was mentioned in the Subcommittee's report.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK, thank you very much.

Canada, we are going to lose interpretation.

**Mr. D. ALDWORTH** (Canada): I will be very fast here and I apologize for this late interjection. I have just noticed in paragraph 53, Canada is not included. Could I ask that Canada be included? Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** With all that has happened here, we cannot forget Canada, believe me.

Distinguished delegates, can I adjourn our meeting this morning so that you can have time for lunch and thank our interpreters and engineers their work and the Secretariat for getting this report to us.

Please be here at 3.00 p.m. prompt for the continuation of our work, if you want to finish today, with interpretation, be here at 3.00 p.m. prompt, I beg you.

*The meeting adjourned at 1.16 p.m.*