

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript***560th** Meeting

Wednesday, 14 June 2006, 10 a.m.

Vienna

*Chairman: Mr. G. Brachet (France)**The meeting was called to order at 10.08 a.m.*

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Good morning distinguished delegates. We will now begin our 560th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning we will continue our consideration of agenda item 8, but before we address the agenda items, I believe that we require an additional answer to the question put by Dr. Gashut from Libya on the coordination of the curriculum and the contents of the Regional Training Centres which were presented to us during the course of the technical presentations yesterday morning and yesterday afternoon. I will give the floor to Madam Lee who deals with the United Nations Space Applications Programme.

You have the floor Madam.

Ms. A. LEE (Expert, Space Applications Programme, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman, good morning distinguished delegates. I now I will answer you about the Regional Centres' curriculum coordination with the Office.

The curriculum, there are four courses for nine-months training, a nine-months Post-Graduate-level course. The four subjects are meteorology, communications, remote sensing and basic space science, and the curriculum was designed by a group of experts since the beginning of the Regional Centres. Once every five years also that we ask all the current experts of the subjects to come to have a one-week long review of the existing curriculum and update the

curriculum for the future use. The materials are distributed to the Regional Centre for the use and we also have sets of information for you if you are interested in gathering them.

In addition, I would like to, I really thank you for your interest in the Regional Centre and how we operate it. I would like to assure you about, by reporting to you how we operate the Regional Centres. We created something that we call it Nine Points Process Check Points and these Nine Points covers most of the activities that we coordinate together. One of them, I reported to you in my Expert Report in the past two years, it has been for the past two years, and right now I have them printed in papers. If you are interested, I will distribute to you.

In the Nine Points, let me quickly summarize to you. Point One is to support the Regional Centres to create your websites. Right now we are happy to announce to you that all the four Regional Centres have their websites available.

And the Second Point is the Office, these activities are some of our domain, some are the Regional Centres' responsibilities. In our responsibilities, we disseminate information about all the activities that we have received. We put it on our website and we go through e-mails and regular mail whenever possible to deliver those to the Regional Centres for the further distribution.

The Third Point is that we submit our Regional Centres' activities to our contact, internal United Nations and also the United Nations in the space-related agencies.

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

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week of the date of publication, to the Chief, Conference Management Service, Room D0771, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.



The Fourth Point is that we have developed an information panel. We displayed that in the Permanent Exhibition Hall where you saw yesterday that with the China flag and _____(?) ceremony, that is the area. We have the information panel about the Regional Centres displayed there for the visitors to see. If you are interested, you are very welcome to visit it. We also mailed a set of those information panels to the Regional Centres for display.

The Fifth Point is that we, as you have seen from yesterday's presentations, we periodically invite the Regional Centre Directors to our meetings to make presentations about their status and accomplishments. We have done so, the first time we did it was 2004, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The second we did it was yesterday in this COPUOS meeting.

Point Number Six is that we established, since 2004, a financial agreement and necessary procedures, regulations and so on with the Regional Centres about the funds that are supported from the Office.

The Seventh Point is that about the curriculum, that is the first thing I answered you about the content of the curriculum and so on.

The Eighth Point is something new that we started to work from this year. The previous seven points already in place and to be implemented, we will continue implementing them. The Eighth Point is about the Governing Board and Advisory Meetings. We do realize that financial resources and the membership, those are critical points to the successful operation of the Regional Centres. So beginning this year, we have put more emphasis on how to help the Regional Centres in facilitating more involvement in the Governing Board functioning. We have our structure is such that we have Dr. Hans Habel(?), most of us know him, he is our Lead of the Regional Centres coordination. For each Regional Centre we have a Technical Officer to serve as the Coordinator. So we routinely, continuously coordinating with the Regional Centre, and we send the Coordinators to the Regional Centres Governing Board or Advisory Meetings for their annual meetings.

The Ninth Point, which we recently through our routine discussions among the staff members that we created this point is more like a financial in-kind and in-cash campaign to facilitating the Regional Centres to find donations effectively. We are going to make e-mails to make notifications and contact with the Regional Centres about the procedures.

So this is my report. Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank Madam Lee for her very exhaustive answer in response to the question put yesterday afternoon following the technical presentations by our colleague from Libya.

This morning we will thus continue our consideration of agenda item 8, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Third Session, and we will hear a report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on DMISCO, which is still known as DMISCO thus far.

We will also continue our consideration of agenda items 11, Space and Society, and 12, Space and Water, and 14, Other Matters.

Ladies and gentlemen, representatives, I will point out to you that at the end of this morning, there will be three technical presentations. The first one by Ms. Takemi Chiku, you all know her well, on the "Activities of the Space Education Centre: Achievements and Perspectives for International Cooperation in Japan". This will be followed by Ms. Germana Garofalo of Italy, on "Space Education and Training Activities in Italy". And finally, Mr. Peter Martinez of South African on the topic of "Space and Society".

And finally, I would like to inform delegates that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is currently holding its intersessional meeting in Room C-0713. Of course, as always, all interested delegations are welcome to attend this meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-third session (agenda item 8)

We thus turn to item 8, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Third Session, and we will now hear a report by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on DMISCO.

I call on the Ambassador of Romania to present the report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

Mr. D. D. PRUNARIU (Romania): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present to the Committee the final report

of the Ad Hoc Expert Group to this Committee as contained in CRP.13.

Since we last provide a progress report to this Committee at its last session, we have finalized the study we were tasked to carry out and presented it to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee during its forty-third session, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.285, for its review.

The Subcommittee, after reviewing the study, further requested the following: (a) the Ad Hoc Expert Group, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, should consult with relevant entities, such as GEOSS, the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Reduction, ISDR, and the UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme, UNOSAT, with a view to reaching agreement on a division of tasks and on how the proposed entity could contribute to achieving the objectives of these initiatives while enhancing the use of space technology in disaster management, particularly in developing countries, and that the results of that coordination should be presented to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-ninth session in 2006 for its consideration; (b) the Office for Outer Space Affairs should correspond with all member States, requesting them to officially communicate their possible commitments to be provided to the proposed entity and that these providers of support should then be invited to harmonize their commitments into one viable proposal for the implementation of the entity; and finally that (c) the Ad Hoc Expert Group would hold a meeting during the forty-ninth session of the Committee to finalize its report to the Committee, including a proposed implementation plan based on the commitments secured and to propose a final name for the entity.

The experts of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, have followed-up on these requests. The Ad Hoc Expert Group held a meeting on 8 and 9 June 2006 to prepare its final report to this Committee, which is being presented as CRP.13. During this meeting, the Ad Hoc Expert Group also finalized the update of the proposed Work Plan, the proposed implementation framework based on the commitments received and also decided on a proposed final name for the entity. The meeting was co-chaired by the representatives of India, Indonesia and the Russian Federation.

As requested by the Subcommittee, the Ad Hoc Expert Group, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, carried out consultations with

representatives of the relevant initiatives, including GEOSS, the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, UNOSAT, ISDR and several others. Based on the consultations with representatives of the initiatives, the Ad Hoc Expert Group updated the proposed list of activities to be carried out by DMISCO and prepared a proposed Work Plan, which is contained in Annex I in CRP.13.

This Work Plan proposes a Mission Statement for DMISCO, which is to “Strive to ensure that all countries have access to and use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle”. The Work Plan also presents all proposed DMISCO activities grouped into three main activity areas: a gateway to space information for disaster management support; a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities; and a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening.

As requested by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-third session, a correspondence was sent by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to all member States, requesting them to officially communicate their possible commitments to the proposed entity. The following member States confirmed their commitments or indicated that they were considering making commitments of support and were invited to a meeting on 7 June 2006 to harmonize the offers of support into one viable proposal: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, China, Germany, India, Italy, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, Switzerland and Turkey. At the meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, held on 8 and 9 June 2006, the Russian Federation indicated the level of support to be made available for the implementation of the entity.

The offers of support included both firm and possible commitments to provide the necessary housing facilities, make available professional experts and administrative staff, provide support to capacity-building activities and technical backstopping, create links to take advantage of relevant ongoing activities, make available satellite data, and also give cash contributions.

Building upon these commitments and the proposed Work Plan, the Ad Hoc Expert Group concluded that the entity should be implemented as a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, from Vienna, under the Director of the Office, as an open network of providers of support. The activities will be planned and carried out in a coordinated manner initially building upon the commitments made by Austria, China and Germany, which include facilities,

professional experts, administrative staff and cash contributions.

The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs will be responsible for the overall management and oversight of DMISCO. DMISCO will have an office in Beijing and an office in Bonn, Germany. The activities described above and in Annex I of CRP.13, will be carried out within the proposed implementation framework presented in Annex II, also in CRP.13, by the staff that will be assigned to the Beijing Office, the Bonn Office and to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna.

In relation to the indication of support made by Switzerland, due consideration will be given to the possibility of having a Liaison Office in Geneva that will contribute to the disseminating and integrating the work of the entity within the humanitarian response community.

Taking advantage of the number of commitments made for carrying out its work, the entity should utilize the support of an open network of partners, thus taking advantage of the important experience and capabilities being offered by many member States. This will also ensure that regional and national centres of expertise have a strong role in their respective region.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group would like to put forward the following recommendations to this Committee.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group recommends to the Committee the implementation of the proposed entity as a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and that the entity be launched on 1 January 2007. The entity being proposed will contribute to ensuring that all countries have access to and use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, a bridge that will connect the disaster management and space communities and a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening.

The entity will carry out its work with the support of an open network of partners, building upon the commitments being provided by the many member States and thus ensuring that regional and national centres have a strong role in their respective region.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group discussed possible names for the proposed entity, recommending the following name: United Nations Platform for Space-

based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, SPIDER.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group recommends that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should develop a detailed Work Plan for 2007 and the 2008-2009 biennium, within the framework proposed in Annex II of CRP.13, and which takes into consideration all the commitments received, and in consultation with the representatives of countries that have provided or will be providing commitments, as well as with the representatives of other countries that have indicated their interest in contributing to the development of the Work Plan.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group recommends the establishment of an Advisory Board, as presented in paragraphs 73 and 74 of the study prepared, A/AC.105/C.1/L.285, and recommends that the Office for Outer Space Affairs correspond with member States, specialized agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to nominate experts to this Advisory Board. The Advisory Board should meet for the first time on the margins of the forty-fourth meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2007 to review the proposed Work Plan for 2007 and the 2008-2009 biennium, prepare a list of suggestions of institutions to be invited to take part in the support forum, as presented in paragraph 75 of the study prepared, A/AC.105/C.1/L.285, and make recommendations on the future steps of the entity.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group recommends that the Office for Outer Space Affairs continue to secure further support to establish the entity, in both in-kind and in-cash contributions, by re-sending a correspondence to all member States, by 30 July 2006, presenting the planned implementation of the entity with the potential benefits, listing the possible opportunities for cooperation and requesting them to communicate or confirm their possible commitments to be provided to the entity, in time to be considered in the development of the detailed Work Plan for 2007 and the 2008-2009 biennium.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank Professor Prunariu for his presentation of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts who have met over the last few days and working in an intensive way to finalize this report and these recommendations.

I believe that a delegation had requested the floor following on on this presentation and it was Canada.

Mr. T. OUATTARA (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This statement will be in French, if you do not mind. The French last version and the English version will follow as soon as possible. Thank you.

(Continued in French): Mr. Chairman, the Canadian delegation would like to congratulate this Working Group on DMISCO for the excellent document that they produced. Since we were one of the leaders during these three years, we know what sort of effort has gone into this and, above all, we do know how much time and patience was required.

Mr. Chairman, the Canadian delegation has its own research on this subject and it has tried to pick out a very clear and precise picture of the implications involved and the support it can give.

Having carried out a very careful analysis of similar kinds of initiatives, the Canadian delegation has come to the conclusion that DMISCO is something that has to exist and will, above all, fill a vacuum. So we are giving it our full support and we are thinking of being, or taking up a greater participation by more ministries and agencies from Canada who are involved in the daily management of disaster. So we continue to encourage harmonize here so that we can fine-tune and better articulate the fundamental principles and operation of DMISCO.

Mr. Chairman, like any human work, the document produced on this DMISCO initiative is certainly not a perfect document. We do understand the need and the legitimacy of the questions that have been brought up. But we do also note that much has done and so what we would wish is that the Committee should proceed with its initiative, which is already now a fairly old and mature initiative, almost five years old. So to be clear, our wish is that we should move on to other stages and to other stages of the procedure which would lead to, in fact, implementing this initiative. The proliferation of disasters of all kinds, the increase in the number of victims there are and damage of all kinds makes it absolutely necessary to, in fact, meet these needs which are increasing all the time. A mature challenge for us.

Other initiatives will be borne after DMISCO and could well come into the terrain occupied by COPUOS. This has always been the case. So having been working on this for four or five years, we must now move on to some action and we must act quickly

because, after all, this is an urgent situation we are facing.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from French):* I thank Mr. Ouattara of the Canadian delegation for the clear position Canada has adopted, supporting the report presented.

Do any other delegations wish to speak on this particular item?

We have Chile, India, Algeria.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish):* As regards DMISCO, which is what we are looking at now, I would like to say something.

A country like Chile does suffer natural disasters quite often. Unfortunately, it is that sort of continent. So DMISCO is not a minor matter for us, it is of great importance, great scope is involved here and it needs, therefore, to be structured as soon as possible. So we particularly want to support work done and it has been done very efficiently by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and now reinforced by my friend Ni(?) Lee(?), who we would like to pay tribute to the work done. We could say that this is work that is really very successful rather like a successful team in the World Cup. So we are very content with the efforts that have been made so far. It is offering us a tool which could be very useful. It is an internationally relevant organization. It is something which will mould international relations and it will bind us up, for example, with international human rights. It is a certain kind of work which is directly linked up to this topic and will lead on to a kind of situation linked up to international humanitarian law and, for example, it will link us into the Red Cross Convention, for example, or it will also connect us to things that have been said by the Secretary-General related to humanity.

So in this whole context, what the Office has done is of greater value because it fits into a very technical and objective framework and so we would like to say that it has our full support. But the only problem which we do have, not with the document from the Office, because we fully support that, entirely support that, but the only problem we do have is regarding the headquarters, so to speak, the location of that. We do not have a problem for the headquarters as such. We are in favour of any entity which should be in that headquarters location where there is a United Nations headquarters so as to be consistent with the

United Nations as a whole and it should be in a geographical location which is most appropriate and least expensive. But what we are concerned about is that the developing countries are rather far away from centres which deal with topics which affect us, after all, very directly. So I think the fragmentation of centres and the agreement that certain persons come to on this matter does not seem to us to be a very good idea. If we look at what has happened to other kinds of organizations, including in Latin America. Perhaps I should not quote one or two centres related to particular areas, thinking, for example, of Regional Centres to do with education and so on, perhaps I should not mention those. But, for example, certain things have been very appropriate but fragmentation *per se* is not good and fragmentation on such very important things as natural disasters is something which, from the point of view of the developing countries, is important because we have to have access to data and things like that. But we have to have a practical approach to these centres to under what conditions it should operate and what would be the terms of reference.

So we continue to think that it is fundamental that this organization should exist and that it should receive the full support of the General Assembly of the United Nations in the appropriate resolution.

It has been pointed out that, talking unofficially, that if there is a resolution from the General Assembly, then I think it would be good to have a resolution on DMISCO so that we can tackle it in a wider-ranging context and it would, therefore, be a more solid matter, it would have a greater legal and political presence on the international scene. What normally happens is that the resolution on this topic, which is seen under the Fourth Committee, would be sort of paragraph 28 *bis* or something and then a large number of delegations, particularly in New York, who, during the year, although there is television and telephone and so on but they are always using the media but nonetheless they are not aware of what is going on in that particular paragraph. This is a reality we have to think of, particularly if we do not have a resolution which is a separate one, if we do not have that, and particularly if we do not have a resolution which technically, politically is separate and talks about a more efficient approach to things. For example, we could have it in the Committee on Sustainable Development. So I think we have to think in terms of the fact that the next Report on Human Development will not have a reference to space. Then we would have to add that one of the great advantages has to do with this whole topic that we are looking at. So if we have a situation where not enough attention is

paid, then we could have many more victims from natural disasters, more so than from terrorism or any other thing.

So to sum things up what I am saying, I think it would be a good idea to think in giving it greater impact. Now the efforts made by the Office for Outer Space Affairs deserves this and we would thank them for that effort but I do not think it is good that the headquarters should be fragmented into different places. I know unofficially that it could be possibly placed in some very inappropriate place in the region of Latin America, for example, and unfortunately many people face the serious problem of natural disasters.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much for your statement on this important question.

Now as for methods, I suggest we give the floor to the various speakers who want to speak and then I would ask the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to respond to the comments made by delegations before I try to come to a conclusion on what we do with this report.

I noted that India wanted to speak, so I call on India to speak.

Mr. B. N. SURESH (India): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Indian delegation congratulates the excellent work carried out by the Ad Hoc Expert Group on this particular topic of disaster management. We see that an enormous amount of effort has gone in in the last few years. And further, a lot of effort has gone into the side meetings during this forty-ninth COPUOS.

Setting up of an entity of this kind is very vital. I think there are no two _____(?) on setting up the entity and it was discussed at great length in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee too and there were two important actions identified. One is to bring in harmonious blending between various agencies to avoid the duplication of efforts. And secondly, to see who, which are the countries, will extend their support.

The Indian delegation is very happy that the Office for Outer Space Affairs has done these two talks (thoughts) very efficiently. In fact, they have brought out very clearly the kind of linking that is required between various similar agencies. And also we are very happy to see that about 12(?) countries have responded within a short span of three months.

Now coming to the clarity of activities. I think it has gone in a very detailed debate and we are very happy to see that there is a very good clear understanding of what should be the activity of this so-called disaster management entity. I think it has been brought out very clearly in the report and spelled out.

One thing which is important is that in our statement, we stated that this entity should serve as a focal point for all countries, particularly for developing nations, to _____(?) a system at times of need on all matters of disaster management. This entity should also attempt to create a global world-share network in a progressing manner with all the similar resource organizations existing in different parts of the world for easy, quick and effective coordination. And we are very happy to see that the Ad Hoc Working Group has proceeded on the same lines and they have recommended to carry out the activities and in an open network and also they have named it rightly as SPIDER, which carries the meaning, the way in which has to happen.

Apart from having these kind of focal agencies, there is also a need to have stronger regional networks for very quick response at the times of need. What is needed here is not only the rehabilitation, it is also important to pursue the activities in terms of detection, preparedness, prevention and rehabilitation to address all issues related to disaster management comprehensively. In that way, the proposed DMISCO, now named as the United Nations Platform Space-based Information for Disaster management and Emergency Response, with the acronym of SPIDER, is the right forum which definitely will act as a gateway.

I am sure there are several questions which need very fine answers but then I think we have been discussing for the last three to four years in this particular area, it is important, I think, the kind of efforts that have gone in, the kind of contributions made by the Ad Hoc Working Group, which in my opinion is very excellent, and it is time for us to get going. And the recommendations I have seen in the report to get it started from 1 January of next year, I strongly feel we should get started so that this forum will really become functional and will start functioning, providing the need on disaster management. I am afraid that this kind of debate will go on for years without really _____(?), without meeting the needs of the countries where the disaster management happens.

Mr. Chairman, I think all of us here are aware the _____ (*not clear*), there is a disaster

in some part of the world and it is essential that this body addresses this issue, I think without any strong reservation, and come up with a clear cut recommendation. We totally endorse the report submitted by the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the DMISCO and now named as the UNP-SPIDER.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much for that statement and for your support of the proposal in the Expert Group's Report.

I call on the representative of Algeria now.

Mr. A. OUSSEDIK (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. May I first of all repeat the support of Algeria to the setting up of this international coordination entity, the coordination of space efforts, as stated yesterday by us. This international entity should be seen, as we said, as a viable entity and consistent and coherent in its structure. It must also be in harmony with existing international entities, not extra or redundant, because, as the Expert Group has pointed out, that we must have it in harmony with the International Charter on Natural Disasters, GMES, and other existing documents. So we must be sure that this entity will be working in harmony with all other entities or organizations.

Now, the effectiveness of this entity must be made specific by projecting its actions to the regional level so it must be based on a sort of regional breakdown and all this would have to be worked out. And so under that aspect, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question of the Chairman of the Working Group to give us a clarification, if possible, on this question of the regional breakdown of this entity, the way it is going to be set up and what steps would have to be taken, both globally and technically, in order to establish that system.

However, we would like also to pay tribute to the quality of work done by the Working Group.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished representative of Algeria for that statement. I think the reply to your question will come when we consolidate all the questions together.

And I now call on the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. J. O. AKINYEDE (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to join colleagues and delegates in appreciating the work that DMISCO experts have done over these few years. And I want to reiterate the commitment and support by Nigeria since the inception of the work of DMISCO and the debates.

I want to recall that, after the tsunami event of 2004, this Committee was seriously worried that something needs to be put in place for a response to research(?) disasters of that kind of magnitude. We all said at that time, if it were possible that we will have started immediately the tsunami disaster. It is still bit worrisome that the debate is still dragging. How long are we going to continue to drag on, to start the establishment of this entity?

I want to support the recommendation of the Expert Group that this entity should take off in January next year. And I also want to back up what my colleague from Algeria said that in order to get very close to the disaster management community in developing countries, the regional focal points also would play a major role. And since some limited commitments have been made, I think those commitments should be encouraged and should be practically utilized so as to get closer to the disaster management community, especially in remote areas. That is why the regional commitments play a major role.

But I want to thank the experts once again and the Committee and also say that we should accept these recommendations so that this entity can take off without further delay.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the delegate of Nigeria for that statement.

The delegate of the United States now has the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to join other delegations who have expressed their appreciation to the Ad Hoc Working Group in preparing this very interesting report. And I note with satisfaction that several of the concerns that my delegation expressed, either within the Ad Hoc Group or here in this Committee, have been addressed, specifically the question of how this links up with other

activities within the United Nations system or outside of the United Nations system.

I also would like to express our appreciation for the analysis that has been done to identify where DMISCO, or SPIDER, could make a contribution to the overall efforts of using space technology for disaster management.

The questions that my delegation has at this stage are more on the legal side and how this actually would be implemented within the United Nations system or what the relationship is between this group and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

It strikes my delegation that there are a number of questions that arise in relation to paragraphs 21 and 22 of the document. The first question is, what do we mean when we say that the entity should be implemented as a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the Director of the Office? Is this going to be a new programme on the same level, as say the Programme on Space Applications? Does this mean that we will have to re-direct staff resources within the Office to fulfil this role or are we going to have to request additional resources from the United Nations regular budget to support this? What is the legal relationship between the Director of the Office and these other entities that are established globally? Is the Director going to be the sort of the Chairman of the Board for these things? Is there going to be a clear line of communication and authority and is the United Nations Office going to be at the top of the hierarchy of some sort of relationship between the Office and member States who are hosting the other offices of SPIDER? It is not entirely clear to my delegation how that would actually work.

The second question arises in paragraph 22 where it says that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs will be responsible for the overall management and oversight of DMISCO, or SPIDER. What exactly does that mean? This is a new type of function that I think we are asking the Office to take on and it is not entirely clear to my delegation that the Office is structured in a way to be able to do that. And my concern is that, while the concept and the specific elements of SPIDER make sense, that we are going to run head first into a very tough wall when it comes to exactly how, from a legal standpoint, this can be implemented within the United Nations. And I am not sure that we can answer all of these questions here today.

I will recall for members that we have had a discussion in the Legal Subcommittee concerning the

Office for Outer Space Affairs playing a role under the UNIDROIT Protocol and taking on the function of Registrar for that Protocol. And we had to engage in a very serious discussion as to the appropriateness of that and to the legal ramifications of playing or fulfilling that role. Now, I am not suggesting that these are analogous activities but what I am suggesting is that we have to be cautious about asking the Office for Outer Space Affairs to fulfil activities that they might not be either in a position to do from a resources standpoint or in a position to do from a United Nations legal standpoint, because, again, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is not a specialized agency, it is a body of the General Assembly, it is here to administer the Space Applications Programme and to service the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees. So I think we have to look very carefully at how we want to use the staff resources and financial resources of the Office for Outer Space Affairs when it comes to this concept known as SPIDER.

Now, I would like to turn to Page 6 of paragraph 28. We are suggesting that we launch this entity by 1 January 2007. But what exactly do we need to do to launch this entity? Is it just a General Assembly resolution? If so, where would that have to be taken up? Are we going to need some kind of legal instrument between the Office and the various countries that will be hosting the parts of the SPIDER network? That is not entirely clear to my delegation. I do not know how we resolve those questions, whether it is done here in the Committee or we have to ask for some sort of assistance from New York.

And then the final question I have concerns paragraph 31 which addresses the Advisory Board. Now, again, it is a matter of what is the Advisory Board. Is it going to be affiliated to the Office or is it affiliated with SPIDER? Is the Committee going to be ultimately responsible for reviewing what the Advisory Board has to say? That is another question that I think that we have to develop further.

Now, my final point is, there are many recommendations contained in this report, it still should go forward, and this those deal with asking member States for their views on their possible support, in-kind or direct funding for SPIDER, looking at what a work plan could involve or implementing SPIDER. So many of these things I think we could probably recommend go forward but the questions of launching this entity and having a programme under the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, those sort of issues we have to consider in more detail. And this is no criticism of the Ad Hoc Expert Group

because the Ad Hoc Expert Group were experts on this question of space technology and disaster management. We certainly did not expect them to be experts on the finer points of United Nations budgets and United Nations legal issues.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of the United States, Mr. Hodgkins. Your questions have all been noted and taken down.

And I will give the floor to the delegate of Colombia now.

Mr. C. ARÉVALO YEPES (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. At the outset, we should like to reiterate our position of principle regarding the need for more active participation by the United Nations system in something which should no longer have to be reaffirmed. I am referring here the problem of natural disasters, natural disasters which know and respect no borders, which do not differentiate between economic systems. This is something which is evident to us. So there is no need to here to prove all this again.

Mr. Chairman, the debate which has taken place was an intensive one. The difficulties have been discussed. How to overcome has been discussed. The creation of this entity, DMISCO, is a very sound response to these problems and this is why I would like to convey my gratitude to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts and whose report was presented to us by Mr. Prunariu. I would like to pay tribute to him as well. We recognize their efforts. We back their efforts. And this entity is something which, at this stage, can only go on and take shape. Yes, a number of questions remain outstanding, answers remain to be found. We have already heard a number of elements here. For example, the relationship with the United Nations system, the creation as such of this entity we have referred to a United Nations resolution which would represent support by the General Assembly. But this does lead us on to another problem. The various regions of the world must be reflected in this resolution and in the very creation of this entity. Therefore, it seems to me to be of fundamental importance that we ensure that all regions of the world participate in this entity. We have here referred to this regional aspect of things and in the case of Latin America, especially the northern part of Latin America, initiatives such as the pre-Andes problem, known as CAF or GEOSOL(?), for the South-East Pacific, the early warning system for tsunamis and other coastal threats in the Caribbean.

This is an entity which has its headquarters in Cartagena and this is why I think we must articulate our response around a regional level.

And the second fundamental issue, of course, as always, is the financial aspect. How do we fund it? Efforts have been made. Of course, it would be remiss of us not to thank those States and entities which have committed themselves on a voluntary basis. And, of course, we have to again welcome initiatives aimed at increasing the participation, participation by all States, on a voluntary basis, I hasten to add.

Thirdly, within the Office for Outer Space Affairs, how are we going to organize our work? We want in no case, and I think Dr. Camacho will probably respond to this question, and Mr. Prunariu, I am sure, will also clarify things, but I would like to say two things.

The risk of a loss of identity for the Office for Outer Space Affairs. I am referring to its mandate for international cooperation in all types of fields, in all types of activities. I know we will not lose this mandate but when we are aware of the limitations, resource-based limitations, we do run the risk of losing our identity somewhat, so we must bear in mind the fact that in a situation like this we will have to take and travel the right path. But if there are finance-based problems, we will have to deal with them in-depth.

It is quite clear that this network must be complemented with focal points, not only on a national level, but also at a regional level, and this to guarantee that the full thrust of the proposal is implemented and ensure that all countries see their interests correctly reflected within this entity which, I hasten to add, we have backed from the very outset.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Ambassador of Colombia for his statement.

I do not believe there are any other requests for the floor. Yes, we have Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As this is the very first time I take the floor, I should like to publicly convey my gratitude to you, congratulate you upon your election to the chairmanship and reiterate the hope that our efforts here will be successful under your stewardship.

More specifically now, on the creation of this entity, which we back wholeheartedly, you are well

aware that Greece has, since the very creation of our world, of our planet, suffered from all types of natural disasters, especially seismic ones. So, of course, we wholeheartedly endorse this initiative and we have from the very outset participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

Regarding the institutional problem, which has been quite aptly summarized by our colleague from Colombia and, of course, our colleague from the United States, I should like to contribute a few ideas to exercise(?) in consideration.

It seems to me to be a little too ambitious, too bold, to, at this stage, launch a large-scale construction which will cost a great deal, especially in the light of the financial problems the Organization is faced with. We have the most promising and most positive experience. I am referring here to the problem of the regionalization of this activity. We have a very positive experience which we acquired a decade ago with the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology. This is a very sound example, a very good example, and I think that in its very first phase, during its first period, all activity for the entity, this could serve as the institutional model which will assist us and help us in implementing this initiative. At the legal level, we will require a General Assembly resolution via the Fourth Committee for, how can I put this, COPUOS is not itself entitled to reach a decision on this. We will have to pass via the General Assembly with a resolution which will perhaps be the founding resolution for this entity.

And then, because, of course, we have to move on to other aspects, there is the issue of reaching an agreement between the United Nations and the States in which the Centres will be located. Therefore, it is my feeling that we could consider or what we could do is have the Office for Outer Space Affairs look at this because it has a great deal of experience, especially with these Regional Centres. So perhaps it could focus on this for now.

So by way of conclusion, if we had a United Nations specialized agency for outer space affairs, all these problems would be easily resolved. But, you know, we have, for a very long time now, asked for such an agency but we have never been able to reach agreement on this. It is all the more needed now.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of Greece.

And I believe Japan has requested the floor.

Mr. S. YAMAKAWA (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I thank the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their effort(?) to the draft(?) comprehensive report. However, we share the same concerns that the delegate of the United States has stated. We would like to express again the concern about the financial implications(?) on the United Nations regular budget to establish and operate(?) to SPIDER. For this point of view, we believe that a detailed financial estimate should be considered in order to _____ (*not clear*).

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Japan for his statement.

I see no other requests for the floor. My mistake, the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we would like first to express our gratitude to the Ad Hoc Expert Group that has really developed great efforts to finalize the discussion on the establishment of a disaster management body that was first called entity and now it is suggested to be called a platform.

In principle, we are very satisfied by this report and my delegation, my country, has supported these efforts and our experts have participated actively in the work of this particular Group.

At the same time, we also fear that there are still some problems and mostly of a legal nature that have remained in the report and that should be still clarified. But I would like to draw the attention to one particular point relating just to legal aspects of this issue.

During the session of the Legal Subcommittee this spring, the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law held a Seminar on the subject "Legal Aspects of Disaster Management and the Contribution of the Law of Outer Space". And following this Seminar, or Symposium, which was very successfully, in my assessment, some delegations, including my own delegation, proposed that there a new item, it should be included in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, namely "Legal Aspects of Disaster Management". And in paragraph 149 of the

Report of the Legal Subcommittee, we have still another important, another relevant sentence, "those delegations noted that a formal proposal would be drawn up following the conclusion of the work being conducted by the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management and further consultations among member States." So that it was already predicted at that time that there were still legal problems that should be really clarified and that should be discussed and we believe that it should be done at an appropriate level, it means in the Legal Subcommittee, because for clarification of legal aspects, it is just the Legal Subcommittee which is competent. And where the Legal Subcommittee so far has not been requested to assist the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the main Committee and, of course, the Ad Hoc Expert Group.

So I wanted to bring this to your attention Mr. Chairman and to the attention of those delegations. Of course, we will support the work on the establishment of the platform, as proposed in the document, but we believe that, indeed, somehow the Legal Subcommittee should be engaged during the process of the establishment of this platform and in order to assist and in order to give its competent advice.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank Professor Kopal for his statement. We have taken note of his point and, of course, we will reflect this in our discussions on the future of the Committee.

And I give the floor to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. M. ASL (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. It was a very interesting discussion on the issue. Just a point of clarification. I do not(?) see that the Ad Hoc Expert Group has not been able to look at the potential candidates for the headquarters, if I am right about that, because we have been able to see that those potential candidates in this session. So my question is that whether there would be a coordinator or task _____(?) many things who could coordinate among those potential countries and then provide a questionnaire because what level(?) are we going to discuss and about the change of _____(?) of that entity whatever(?) it is. We have to be careful about the budget because it directly relates to the

headquarters issue. Without solving that problem, we could not get the estimated budgetary implication. So that is the problem that we have to take with the issue of the potential candidate to see whether there would be enough advice(?) may be vague, that we go and proceed with a questionnaire to see how much advantages there would be for the potential candidate and how much concessions they would be able to give to those entities. This is something that we have to be careful about. And while we have the competition among those potential candidates, funding would be able to give the estimated budgetary implications and the concession advantages of one candidate to another candidate.

That is my question that I wanted to ask you. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his question.

I do not see any other requests for the floor. Yes, the Swiss observer. So if the member States of the Committee do not object, I will grant the floor to the observer from Switzerland.

Mr. P. PIFFARETTI (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman and I thank the delegations of the member States for granting me the opportunity to make a statement as an observer. I would like to again reiterate Switzerland's support for the DMISCO initiative. I would like to stipulate today that Switzerland especially backs the project as it is presented. Yes, questions remain outstanding but we are convinced that we have to launch the project. Natural disasters will not wait for us. They always strike too soon.

The two items on which I should like to have some clarifications are the paragraph 28 of the recommendation and the issue of the access to satellite information, access which should, and this is quite clearly stated in paragraph 28, should be open to all States which might want or might be able to intervene in the management of natural disasters. Should we, in this paragraph, provide for access by international entities, such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Red Cross and others who might be interested, or who, for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, might wish, in an emergency situation, might wish to have access to the satellite data. Should we in this text where we say, or was it sufficient to just say, ensuring that all countries have accessed. Might

we not also have to ensure the access of such organizations.

Secondly, and this is on the same recommendation, which, again, I back, second clarification, would be on item 31, the issue of the Advisory Board. It states here that the Office for Outer Space Affairs will enter into contact with the member States for the nomination and designation of experts. Given the fact that a number of observer delegations have clearly shown their interest of becoming full-fledged members, but also to clearly reflect their support and their intention to support the project before us today, should we not provide, or perhaps this is quite clear here, but perhaps we should provide in addition to member States a reference to observers.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Piffaretti, representative of the Swiss Confederation(?).

Perhaps we will now give the floor to Mr. Sergio Camacho, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to, whenever this is possible, in real time, provide us with answers to our questions.

Sergio, you have the floor.

Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I think as you mentioned, as you framed it, I am going to try to provide some information, to shed some information to some of the questions that have been posed by members of the Committee, members and observers, sorry.

I have been taken notes so I will be following more or less the sequence that I have here. I know the concerns that were expressed by more than one delegation and I will try by flipping back and forth to address the nuances that were different in some of the questions and some of the comments that were made. And, of course, after I finish, if something was not clear, then I would be very happy to answer the question or the comment in a different manner if I can.

The first concern that I noted was from Chile, the Ambassador of Chile, and eventually this same concern was expressed by Algeria, by India, by Nigeria and, I believe, Colombia and a few other countries, and that is the question that has two aspects. On the one hand, Chile was concerned that if it is decentralized, it might not be effective. And at the same time that if it was in the venues were, offers had been made that it

would be too far from the regional complex, in particular that it would be too far, to give an example, from Latin America.

The same concern was expressed then by Algeria, the second part of that concern by Algeria, Nigeria, India, Colombia and others. The intention, as I understand from the Group of Experts and also from the governments that have offered to support DMISCO, is that DMISCO would be operating as a network. I will address the fact of the venues a little bit later. But that would have then the offices that have been identified, that would have the Office for Outer Space Affairs has been identified and that would integrate, it would take the resources that have been offered in particular by Nigeria, by Algeria, by Argentina, to provide for a regional focal point that would be able to, would be an interface with the region. And the examples, if I may use an example, is some institutions have capacities to provide data, satellite data, and are welcome to _____(?) them. Now, DMISCO would take that as a contribution towards the work programme. And several institutions have capacity for training, for education, and have offered to provide that towards DMISCO.

DMISCO itself is not conceived as a training institution. DMISCO would then direct those that need training, link those who need training with the opportunities.

So my understanding is that, as DMISCO is being established, those are the type of links that need to be added to this network concept and that it would be a growing process. It would not immediately begin all over the world, it would need to start linking a work plan and establishing those links, as was in the report of the experts, initially, with the resources that have been provided. But there is also a consideration in the report of the experts that an additional call should be made for resources.

A number of questions were presented by the United States and in a way also echoed by similar types of questions that were presented by other delegations. The co-question, as I said, was how would it be implemented? That is a concern that many of you have. And a sub-question there, or one of the number of questions, was, would it be something like the Programme on Space Applications, _____(?) proposed to be established within the Office, would it be something like the Programme on Space Applications? In my mind, that is the way it would work. It would be not as big as the Programme on Space Applications, but it would be a programme under the Office, over which then the membership of

the Committee would have an input as we do with the Programme on Space Applications. The Committee does not(?) micro-manage(?) the Programme but it sets the priorities for the Programme. It says that these are the things that our needs and this is what we would like you to address. So that is the type of relationship that I see within the Office.

Now, how would that be done? It would be done the way the Programme on Space Applications was established and that was through a United Nations resolution. The Programme on Space Application was established as a result of UNISPACE and in resolution 37/90, if I remember correctly. And the General Assembly took the recommendation of UNISPACE that there should be a Programme on Space Applications that would do the following and then it has a mandate for the Programme. I would imagine that it would be a similar type of resolution where it would give the Office a mandate for establishing a Programme.

Now I will address a proposal that was made by Greece, at this point, because I think this links back to the Programme and the question of establishment. We do have a positive experience in the establishment of the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, that provides, part of it, in my view, provides a type of institutional model for how the DMISCO would be established. There are differences, of course. The Centres were established by one post(?) Government that carries the entire load. We have heard the presentations of the Regional Centres and there is a struggle always for being able to maintain it. And we have also heard that it can achieve only part of what it would like to achieve because there are not the resources and the weight is only on the host Government. So in trying to assist that, we have established with each one of the Centres a Memorandum of Understanding. It is a sort of Memorandum of Understanding in the sense that we only commit to help the Centres to the extent of our abilities and within existing resources. And it provides for the Centres. If you look at resolution, I think it was 45/90 maybe, that the Committee agreed that there should be an affiliation between the Centres and the United Nations in order to give them the greater disability(?) (greatest ability?) and be able to recruit support. This is why those Memoranda were established and opinions(?).

I would envisage that for the relationship with the other offices, the Office for Outer Space Affairs then would enter into an agreement that would say this is what we will do and then we would say this is what the Office would do. Those agreements would be, in a

way, analogous, at least in the spirit, there would be likely agreements with the Regional Centres so that the resources of the Office would not commit it beyond what the Office might be able to provide. But yet, by having it here, there is a difference, by having it as a programme of the United Nations, then the offices and regional focal points that it would have, would have the ability, not the ability, the potential, to attract greater resources, being a United Nations Programme. There is a difference between a United Nations Programme and just being an entity with whom the United Nations has a relationship.

Now, and the required resources. There is an amount that has already been offered formally, both by statements that have been made here and in written form that the Office has received. So there is already a substantial contribution. And in the report of the experts, there was a proposal that there should be a United Nations contribution as well. I believe that this is quite feasible, that there could be a United Nations contribution within the regular budget. I think right now is excellent to make such an attempt. I have mentioned attempt because there is no guarantee. The United Nations is going right now through a reform process. Through that reform process, one of those elements, the General Assembly is reviewing all mandates that are older than five years with the intention of identifying obsolete mandates or mandates that cover items that are no longer priorities in the United Nations, with the intention of taking those resources and putting them in higher priority areas. And I believe that disasters are certainly a high priority area in the United Nations. There is no guarantee that when the General Assembly looks at it that they will agree that disasters is a higher priority area than some other ones where those same resources would go. What I am saying is that there will be an opportunity for a re-distribution of the same resources that have already been approved by the General Assembly so that it would not imply a growth in the overall budget of the United Nations, that it could be then by a re-distribution. And that will happen whether they come towards a space application like the one we are talking about right now, or they go to some other area. That is, of course, for a decision in New York.

Now, how would it be done? If the Committee is to recommend that DMISCO should be established, then our Office would begin a process of communication with the Programme Planning and Budget Division in New York with the Secretariat indicating that the Committee has made this recommendation and this would have financial implications. This office, and I will call them PPBD, I do not repeat the long name, the PPBD would then

request to see the Work Plan to see what is involved so that it would not be our Office that would prepare a budget correspondence to carry out these functions. On the basis of the work that is to be done, the PPBD would prepare a document that would include staff that would be required, equipment, maintenance of equipment, operating costs in general. So though it prepared data(?), the Committee makes a recommendation and then it would go to the Fourth Committee and the Fourth Committee is where the Working Group of the Whole looks at the omnibus resolution of every year which would then have a paragraph, this is a draft, it would have a paragraph that recommends the establishment of DMISCO, making reference to the report of the Committee, by which the Work Plan _____(?) not yet, the text would read exactly and if the Fourth Committee was considering leaving it there for consideration. When it goes to the Fourth Committee, then PPBD must present a Programme Budget Implication so that member States know before taking a decision what it would cost. So PPBD would present it and it would say one of two things. It would say it would cost an X amount of dollars, which would be offset by a reduction in the same amount in some other section of the budget or it would say there are no other sections, it would result in a not(?) increase. And then the member States would then take a decision which mostly like would be then in that case we do not approve.

That is why I said it is not guaranteed but I think there is the possibility of going through the process and actually getting a re-distribution of resources dedicated to this.

But what relationship would DMISCO have with the Office and would it strain the resources of the Office? Could it be done within existing resources of the Office? I think the Office needs to have additional resources to be able to actually do its coordinating part in this role.

The relationship with the Office could be very much as it is with the Regional Centres, not identical, but if the Office is going to take the responsibility, then the Office should be able then to be either Chairman of the Board of those that are members or have their details that would need to, or _____(?) have a mechanism through the agreements whereby the Office is not in this way _____(?) to some of the legal aspects that Professor Kopal was referring to, that the Office does not carry a liability and does(?) the offices, the ones that we have right now, the regional ones to be developed, commit to whatever it might be.

Regards the type of relationship that I would see, in the document where it says "management and oversight", that is actually something that we provided and what it means is this. If DMISCO is to become a programme within the United Nations, that means that it will have to go through the same procedure as anything else of the United Nations. That means there will be some contribution that will have to be coming from the offices, from the parts that are not physically located in the Office, they would have to come towards the preparation of the Strategic Framework, which is the equivalent of what used to be Medium-Term Plan. There would be some kind of input that would go into, this is what is intended to be done. And then that goes into the budget process, and I would say that to do that, we would need so many resources. And then after that, then there is an accountability and I would say that this is what we said we were going to achieve, these are the indicators of how we are going to do it and here is what we did. Now that would be something that the Office would do because it would then be, when we make a submission to any of these processes, we do it for the entire programme. We do not do one for servicing the Committee and one for doing the Programme on Space Applications and any other work that we do. So it is altogether. This is what is meant on the oversight. So the Office then would be asking the Centres, you said you were going to do this, where is it? That is what meant there.

I think I might have addressed how to be implemented within the United Nations through that resolution. How do we launch it by 2007? There is a lot of work to be done and that showed that it could be January 2007, it could be a little later. I think the intention of the experts favoured call(?) was we need to start as soon as possible.

The relationship of what is the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board would be as proposed its member States and IGOs, NGOs. There is not anything built into it but that is something for consideration whether the Advisory Board should be the one taking the guidance from the Committee and then taking it to DMISCO already in a functional manner.

Regarding the comments from Switzerland, whether paragraph 28 should include the entities also of the United Nations system and perhaps others and not just member States. My personal impression is that it certainly should. That is the purpose of DMISCO.

And I think with that I would stop here, Mr. Chairman.

Yes, I will amplify something that I mentioned before that relates to the question of Iran. I might not have covered it completely and said would there be headquarters among the potential candidates. Right now, it is envisaged as a programme of the United Nations so the oversight would be the United Nations and the rest is a network which, for the time being, is those offices where there is sufficient support to make the operation viable, would begin working immediately. And then others, as they have the resources in place and want to join the network, would then start coming in in a form that still needs to be worked out, exactly what the mechanisms are going to be for the coordination.

There is quite a bit of work to be done. Right now, what has been put forward is a package that is viable to begin and then the intention would be to make sure that every time something is added, it continues to be viable that one part does not start dragging down whatever was upgraded before, as I understand it.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Camacho for these very complete replies to the many questions that were made by the 12 delegations who spoke after Mr. Prunariu's report was presented. The thing I would like to say first off is that I am very happy to have seen what a tremendous discussion has been about all this which shows the great interest of the Committee.

So, in principle, if I have got things right, I would suggest that the omnibus resolution that we are going to prepare will include a paragraph, or more than one paragraph, or a section in other words, which will suggest the setting up of the organization which would become a United Nations Programme which would then be looked at by the Fourth Committee during the General Assembly.

So in the days to come we would have a proposal for a resolution, or the passing of a resolution, which would include that proposal. I think this is an important point because from the point of view of working methods, the Committee must see how in practice it is going in the final analysis to present its proposal which will then be transmitted to the General Assembly, through the Fourth Committee, on this DMISCO/SPIDER idea.

I think the delegate of Greece wants to put a question.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have listened carefully to what was being said by our colleague, Dr. Camacho. I am normally an optimist but in this case I feel some doubts as to the possibility of making progress so quickly. First of all, there is the major legal problem and I know from Professor Kopal that, as regards the legal status, the legal conditions attaching to this entity, all this is a problem. Because if it is not going to be a United Nations programme, then it would be an entity of an international organization and, therefore, to establish it, we would need a Diplomatic Conference. We cannot establish or create an international organization, such an ambitious one, without a Diplomatic Conference, because the United Nations itself cannot create other organizations by itself. So that is my first point.

My second point is that I am worried about universal participation in this entity. I think I have said on a number of occasions in the past that we need all States to be participants and not just and only the member States of our Committee. So the efforts which we will have to make will be in the major United Nations Committee, the Fourth Committee. Unfortunately, one can only have three days of debate in New York there, so perhaps it is not very realistic to think in terms of being able to finish all that work at the end of this year, in other words, before Christmas on all these United Nations resolutions. So within the period of a holiday week, so to speak, I am speaking on behalf of Christians here, of course, we cannot resolve all those problems.

And then international cooperation at the regional level always brings up a problem. Let us say, what is going to happen in the regional organizations? For example, the member States of the European Union are also working in the programme which is management of natural disasters and also human disasters. So it is all a question of the policy of coordinating on the regional level.

And thirdly, we have the idea which is to move on the conclusion of this proposal here which is, after all, a very singular one but this involves cooperation with already existing international organizations whether this be the Red Cross or the High Commission for Refugees and so on.

My fear is that instead of establishing something which will facilitate efforts to deal with victims of catastrophe, instead of that we might well be looking at a complication in existing procedures.

But let me move back now to the whole question of the regional approach. I warmly welcome that, of course, the three regions. There is experience, for example, now talking about the Mediterranean peoples, whether it is Turkey, Greece, Morocco, Algeria and so on. Unfortunately, we have tremendous experience in earthquakes here so for Mediterranean people it is much easier to coordinate and deal with the problems that come up when that happens. In other words, you have to move fast and deal with things when the catastrophe happens. It is the closeness, the natural closeness, the administrative closeness which is important. And thirdly, it is the solidarity which exists amongst the various suffering peoples, suffering from the same disasters which strike them. So at the end of the day, it is far simpler to find resources at a local level and then look at the broader scope of the problem.

This, Sir, is why we need to continue to study and to reflect and indeed work on this. There is no need here to run before we learn to walk. It is completely realistic to launch this by 1 January 2007. What I would propose is that we should convene a small working group with legal practitioners and experts who should prepare a project for us, for, again I wish to reiterate my gratitude to our colleagues who have worked as part of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts. What we require is a more concrete project regarding the efforts which will have to be undertaking over the next few years.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Greek delegation for its statement. Just on one item, at the very beginning of your statement. I think the answer to this is no. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs has clearly stipulated that this was not about creating a new organization, a new United Nations agency, which would be rather bold in nature, but to launch a new programme managed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs which does not require the convening of a Diplomatic Conference.

On all the other aspects of your statement, especially the speed or desired speed, is something which only the future will be able to show us.

I believe the United States had requested the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be brief

because I know we have to move on to the special presentations.

First, I would like to thank the Director for the Office for Outer Space Affairs for an excellent summary of answers to the questions that have been raised. And I would like to make one observation for delegations to think about as we go to the break. It seems to me that we have to make a fundamental decision on how to proceed with this concept. Mr. Camacho has given us the various options that we could look at. The one that strikes my delegation is probably the most complicated and the most risky is creating a new programme. And I say that because, as the Director of the Office has pointed out, you are now entering into a completely different process that we as a Committee have little or any control over. So what we have to do is fully appreciate the fact that if we were to move forward and ask for a new programme for this Office, the people evaluating that programme, and that proposal, will look to other activities that are being undertaken, as the experts have done in the report on Pages 3 and 4. And the natural inclination, I would expect is for those people who are looking at the budget and looking at the money to ask why. Why would we need to take money from one programme in the United Nations and give it to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for a new programme? Would it not make sense to take this idea and fold it in some place else where there are already existing resources?

So we are taking a big risk because if we go forward, ask for a new programme and then do not get it, where are we left? That would be the first question.

The second option is as the Director has pointed out, there could be some sort of analogous relationship between the Office and the Regional Centres that you might be able to use that as a model. That, from my delegation's standpoint, does not run the same types of risks. We can do it within the existing resources. We do not have to rely on other mechanisms of the United Nations to make this happen.

And then third model, which I do not think has been touched on but it could have been, would be the Office for Outer Space Affairs relationship with other groups, such as CEOS and GEO, where the Office for Outer Space Affairs plays a very specific role in those groups and it is within their existing programme and expertise but they make a contribution to that work. And, in turn, the Committee has a role to play in advising the Office on what types of activities they might undertake in relationship to those groups. So that certainly would be another option to look at.

And then finally, the other point I would like to make, going back to the idea of creating a programme. If we create a programme, similar to the Space Applications Programme, then the DMISCO activity is now under the oversight of the Committee so you would no longer need an Advisory Board, as suggested in Page 31, because it would become a United Nations, this Committee, this body, would be responsible for overseeing it. I have to just ask those who are proposing this, or the Ad Hoc Experts who have suggested this, whether this would be a positive development in their minds or not. Because the way SPIDER or DMISCO is structured, it is not going to be universally participated in necessarily, in terms of resources being committed. So what it means is that those countries who are committing resources to this activity, the oversight of that activity will be undertaken by other countries that may not be contributing resources.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished representative of the United States.

And we have a request for the floor from Chile. Ambassador González. No? I apologize. I turn to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Would you like to make a further statement, following on from the two statements we have just heard, for we have a timing problem for this morning. You will recall that we have three presentations planned for this morning. If we start them now, in five minutes rather, we will have time to hear them. Shall I grant a few minutes to respond to the various comments by Greece and the United States, following which we will suspend discussion on this and return to it in the afternoon.

Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If, taking into account the time that we have left, I would be happy to wait until this afternoon when we come back and then make a couple of comments.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): So I thank you. Bearing in mind that we, of course, have a number of outstanding issues which remain on the table before us. This has certainly been an excellent discussion on this item.

I will remind you that this afternoon on agenda item 8, we will hear the report of the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, a Group which is continuous work, as you well know.

Space and society (agenda item 11)

So we are going to move on to item 11, Space and Society. We have three requests for the floor for this. And what we will do this afternoon, we will deal with items 12, Space and Water, and item 14, Other Matters, which we will not have the time to address today.

So under item 11, we have a statement by Japan. No, I apologize. The Secretariat, in fact, recommends that I should postpone discussion on item 11 until this afternoon or at the very least the statements.

Technical presentations

And this morning, we will move on the technical presentations which will take up all the available time until 1.00 p.m.

And I, therefore, give the floor to Ms. Takemi Chiku of Japan, "Activities of JAXA Space Education Centre: Achievements and Perspectives for International Cooperation".

Ms. T. CHIKU (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I certainly did not wish to interrupt the discussion on the very important issue, knowing how challenging it is to organize the work of the Committee. If it is the wish to move on to the special presentations, I will be more than happy to do so.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to express our gratitude for giving us an opportunity to brief the Committee on the work of JAXA's Space Education Centre has achieved in the past year and what we are planning to do to further expand space education activities through international cooperation.

Space education provides an effective means to develop human resources to build a better future for us. It is not just publicizing space activities or preparing a future workforce for space activities, it goes beyond that. By inspiring young people to discover truths in the Universe and to take up challenges in exploration and the use of outer space. We are trying to help young people acquire insights and develop their own visions as well as to motivate them to do something to build a better future together.

These are the principles that we follow and that we shared with the Committee last year in our presentation, immediately following the establishment of the Space Education Centre.

Among these, importance of life continues to be most important message that we want to get across to our young people through activities.

Mr. Chairman,, Japan is a country that may have achieved significant economic development in the past. The abundance of goods and services might indicate to some the richness of the society. But that may not be necessarily true when we think about the minds of people, particularly young people in Japan. We are deeply concerned with the alarming number of young people who have no motivation to do anything and who are pessimistic about their own future and if we even treat people lightly and get involved in serious crimes. And those of us who worry about in the establishment of the Space Education Centre wanted to do something about it.

And we found space as a fascinating tool to inspire and motivate young people to start believing that they can do more, achieve higher and have a bright future if they set their goals high and work towards those goals.

Gaining the spirit of "never give up" is considered very important as this is essential for almost anybody who wants to achieve something significant in this challenging world.

We also want our young people to appreciate the importance and the power of the collective efforts made towards the common goals and we want them to think about what they can do for their society together and space activities provide many excellent examples of how a large number of people of various backgrounds can work together to build a global system that could benefit the global society.

We concentrate our efforts on three priority main activities. And one is to provide support to teachers, educational support, as we call it. We provide customary support to those teachers who have contacted us to help them introduce space science and technology in their classroom teaching or extra-curriculum activities, according to the interests of the teachers and the students.

We find appropriate JAXA scientists and engineers to provide knowledge and expertise to develop teaching materials for classroom activities and we hold numerous consultations in person with each

one of the teachers until they achieve satisfactory results.

Another priority activity is to organize hands-on activities through one-day events or short-term courses and these activities are mainly for primary and secondary schoolchildren. But we also organize training seminars for teachers and leaders of voluntary groups of space advocates to learn how to carry out space education activities for children.

We also make those teaching materials and education programmes that we develop, freely available on our website.

This slide shows some statistics of how many schools received support from us to carry out their own unique space education activities in the last fiscal year in Japan from April 2005 to March 2006. Providing customized support to teachers does consume a large number of staff time and efforts but this activity will continue to be a priority of the Centre.

The photograph at the upper right corner reminds many of us of how rewarding it is to overcome challenges of supporting schools with various needs.

This is a scene from a school for handicapped children. And when we received from this school for support, we were not too sure if we could get those children interested in space subjects or even to get them involved in hands-on activities. But when we showed them how to make and fly a small rocket using a plastic container for a camera film and a bubble-creating bath tablet, all of them, including teachers, got very excited and none of the children gave up making and applying their own small rockets even though they had to struggle just to use a pair of scissors. And the beaming faces of those children who gained confidence in their own ability encouraged us to reach out to all children regardless of limitations in their physical ability or social and economic circumstances.

Our hands-on on-site educational activities consist of events and short-term courses organized as part of what we call "Cosmic College". And depending on the age and the level of knowledge, we offer four different levels of courses, covering the primary school to high schools students.

We also organize Educators Courses for school teachers and leaders of young people's voluntary groups to share the teaching methods and the materials that we have developed for hands-on training and activities of Cosmic College.

And these are some photographs from various Cosmic College courses that aim to achieve the objectives indicated on this slide.

We have come to realize that organizing those on-site events has a limit as it requires a significant amount of staff resources and we cannot expect to significantly increase the number of events that we can organize each year. And that is why we have started to develop a new system of correspondence courses which may come to be called Space School.

The students who have subscribed to the correspondence courses offered at various levels basically study at home using materials that we develop and they also receive interactive support and feedback from the teachers who work in collaboration with us in this Space School.

The on-site events that used to be organized at Cosmic College would now serve to offer schooling for the students, to get together after some period of individual learning at home, to create feelings of "togetherness" among the students of Space School.

Our education support activities would now focus more on training teachers for these correspondence courses.

And with this new system, which may start on a trial basis later this year, we aim to significantly increase the number of students and teachers that benefit from our on-site activities and support to teachers.

The collaborations with various entities engaged in education are the key for our success and a close collaboration with teachers inputs is considered most essential.

We spare no effort to exchange ideas with associations of teachers, boards of education, as well as publishers of textbooks and companies of educational materials.

We intend to work with many other entities that contribute to education and to also expanding human knowledge. Not only with those entities involved in space science, space development, life science and Earth science, that we can easily think of in the association with space activities, we also work with those engaged in studies in humanities and civilizations as well as in arts and philosophies. We continue to pursue such a comprehensive approach as we expand our space education activities.

Based on the goals and principles that I have just indicated, we are expanding the partnership to entities of other countries and international organizations. And in this slide, we have tried to summarize our approach to expand space education activities through international cooperation.

We value the opportunities offered through the International Space Education Board, known as ISEB, to learn from leading space agencies with established education programmes. And at the same time, we consider it important to exchange ideas and experiences with those countries with increasing interest, and potential, in expanding their space capabilities and carrying out space education activities.

To establish partnerships with those countries, we find it beneficial to use the existing regional mechanisms, such as APRSAF for Asia and the Pacific, and the Space Conferences of the Americas.

As much as the circumstances allow, we would be happy to contribute to stimulating interregional collaboration in space education as well, for example, between Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean through the regional mechanisms.

I mentioned those regions because the JAXA Space Education Centre serves as the Secretariat of APRSAF Space Education and Awareness Working Group and we also had opportunities, through UNESCO, to work with Colombia, to expand space education activities.

And, of course, we would be happy to explore possibilities for cooperation with other regions through any entity that serves as the focal point for regional cooperation.

We consider it important that entities responsible for global cooperation, such as this Committee and UNESCO, are kept informed of all these efforts to promote space education at the regional and global levels. And in the next few slides, I will just show some examples of activities that we have carried out through international cooperation and that are shown in green circles on this slide.

We collaborate with the members of ISEB, which was recently established by four space agencies with education programmes to achieve the objectives indicated on this slide.

The membership of ISEB is open to any public organization carrying out space activities and

pursuing education programmes. While this is a framework led by well-established space agencies, ISEB has potential of providing a global framework for cooperation in space education.

With regard to specific activities to be carried out within the framework of ISEB, the members have so far agreed to support the Student Participating Programme of the International Astronautical Congress, and many other ideas and proposals are currently being discussed among the members of ISEB.

We consider it important to work with such entities of the United Nations system as the Office for Outer Space Affairs and UNESCO Space Education Programme, as they provide global mechanisms for cooperation that benefit a far larger number of countries and people than we could possibly do ourselves, the JAXA Space Education Centre, and we would be happy to support activities organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the area of space education, just like we did in October last year.

We appreciated the opportunities provided by UNESCO to participate in space education workshops held in multiple cities in Colombia and in Viet Nam. And when we were in Colombia and Viet Nam, we introduced water rockets as an educational activity. And these are photographs from water rocket activities that we carried out in Bogotá and Medellín in Colombia and Hanoi and Hue in Viet Nam. And we are very pleased with the consequences of those activities, as it has turned out that some of the very enthusiastic teachers and educators that I have encountered, came up with much better ideas and teaching methods than us and started to exchange ideas and experiences to enhance the content of our educational materials for water rocket activities. And this is an excellent example of new truly beneficial cooperation and this led us to think about convening an international seminar next year for teachers and educators to exchange ideas and experiences on how to introduce water rocket activities as part of the education programme in the schools.

In the region of Asia and the Pacific, we intend to support space education activities through the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, known as APRSAF. Through the Space Education and Awareness Working Group, we introduced a water rocket competition, which is becoming an annual regional event for secondary school students.

Within the framework of APRSAF, we also organized a space education forum in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in cooperation with UNESCO for the school

students to learn about various subjects of space science and technology and to also participate in hands-on activities. And for younger primary school students, a regional poster event is being planned during the next APRSAF meeting in November in Indonesia.

Through APRSAF, we try to organize activities that would allow young people across the region to share the excitement and joy of accomplishing something together, beyond whatever the differences they may have.

We maximize opportunities offered through the global framework to find best partners for cooperation. We consider it important to find and work with those that serve as the focal points for regional cooperation. For example, in Europe, cooperation with ESA is very important to us and this would allow us to establish contacts and interact with various European entities and also to learn what would work to enhance the regional cooperation in space education.

UNESCO provided us with an important opportunity to work with various entities of Colombia, which successfully served as Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Space Conference of the Americas. And in addition to supporting water rock activities, we are now working with the University of Tokyo, to provide support to universities in Colombia that pursue CubeSat development.

For the benefit of our young people in Japan, we try to maximize training opportunities that are available at the international level. And together with three other space agencies, we support the Student Participation Programme of IAC, which is now being carried out within the framework of ISEB. We also support the International Space University, ISU. And we have offered fellowships to Japanese students to participate in its Summer Session Programmes and the Masters courses.

And as for these two activities and training opportunities for university students and graduate students, we are currently in the process of linking them closer to our priority activities to train future educators and teachers to carry out space education activities around the country. So when we select the participants for those programmes and activities, we give priority to those students who have demonstrated their potential for providing support to teachers and carrying out hands-on activities in space education.

As for international cooperation, our priority is to respond to requests and the needs of those entities that have contacted us while supporting the existing mechanisms or frameworks for cooperation. For example, the idea is in disseminating in other languages than Japanese, its instructive DVDs on the water rockets or training kits for CamSat, a lot of which is done by the University Space Engineering Consortium known as UNISEC, came up as a result of an increasing number of requests that we received for information on those activities from other countries.

But, Mr. Chairman, we certainly do not, and will not have enough resources and manpower to expand our activities to achieve all our goals and plans presented today. And that is why we place emphasis on establishing partnership with those who share our principles and visions for space education.

Using space as the common theme to address, we can help our young people to find something that gives them joy of working together with others and that gives them means to communicate, overcoming the barriers created by language, cultural and any other differences.

Space, it is a keyword to spark interest, imagination and inspiration of children in the world. As we expand our space education activities with our partners, we will continue to focus on establishing the linkage between space and the various aspects of our daily lives, our history and our future. We also focus on strengthening the linkage between peoples, societies and countries.

Mr. Chairman, it is our dream that someday, what we do through space education, would eventually play an important role in bringing civilizations together to work towards global peace and prosperity.

And I thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank our distinguished colleague from Japan for this extremely brilliant statement on the activities in education and her thinking on the evolution of this very ambitious programme. And I note there is a question from our friend, the delegate of Colombia.

Mr. C. ARÉVALO YEPES (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. You have well interpreted what I wanted to say also in respect of this excellent, brilliant presentation by Takemi Chiku. We have been witnesses of the exceptional work done by

JAXA in Latin America through the Pro Tempore Secretariat and the commitment they have made in education. And I think this dimension is fundamental, as she pointed out so clearly, that this is where different peoples come together in their cultural context and across great distances. In the particular case of Colombia, the multiplying effect of the experience we had last year is very impressive. We have had reports from different national bodies who naturally wanted to contribute, wanted to receive, and above all, interchange ideas and impressions with those countries and in particular with JAXA in Japan on this essential topic which is education. So once again, I would like to say to Ms. Takemi Chiku that we are most grateful for what she said and give her full support.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Colombia.

I think the delegate of Ecuador also asked for the floor.

Ms. R. VASQUES DE MESSMER(Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I simply want to take this opportunity to say thanks for the excellent presentation by the distinguished delegate of Japan. As you know, in this forum, there will be in July a kind of meeting in Quito and the subject will be education and I would like to underline the important participation and help of JAXA. Officially, we will be strengthening our invitation to invite her very valuable participation because, in respect of the topics she covered, these are very important topics, education, above all, and particularly education for the young. So thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank our colleague, the representative of Ecuador.

And I believe our friend, Ambassador González wishes to speak likewise.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Yes, thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I actually asked for the floor earlier but unfortunately it was not observed. But I just would like to say now that I am not surprised by the presentation we have heard because I know her brilliant career in the United Nations, as well as cooperating very closely, for example, very recently in the PrepCom in Santiago on the Fifth Latin American

Conference. As we all know, one of the central features of this Fifth Conference is education, so her presentation is totally in harmony with the needs that the region has. And from the point of view of Chile, we hope that her presence will be with us at that Conference.

We have also discussed the question of being present in Ecuador in July and I just would like to say thank you for the very stimulating presentation she made.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank our distinguished delegate from Chile.

I call now on Geremana Garofalo for the presentation on "Space Education and Training Activities in Italy". Ms. Garofalo.

Ms. G. GAROFALO (Italy): Distinguished delegates, I would like to express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to show you a presentation about Italian space education and training activities.

The Italian Space Agency is carrying out several activities for the diffusion and enhancing of space culture amongst schools and families, university and young researchers. In particular, what I am going to present today is the ASI Mission on education and training, ASI guidelines on education and training, space education and training objectives, space education on training projects, education and training activities main returns and education as an international cooperation tool.

Through the roadmap, you can have a visual synthesis of much of the contents that I am going to present. The roadmap sign(?), in fact, the work in progress and in particular, you can see, shows the education activities target, projects and main returns.

First of all, I would like to show you the ASI Mission on education and training. In accordance with the Italian Law Decree 128 in June 2003, regarding the Italian Space Agency reorganization, the Italian Space Agency promotes the education and the professional growth in the fields of aerospace science and technology.

In the National Aerospace Plan Framework, the Italian Space Agency main guidelines on education and training are: first, the spreading of the aerospace culture and knowledge gained from relative research in

families and schools; the spreading of aerospace culture in all the high schools to stimulate the younger generation an interest in techno-scientific subjects and, therefore, direct their choices at university; to bring together knowledge, scientific and technological culture and entrepreneurial expertise which will further the awareness in the younger generation of the role that they will cover professionally in the immediate future.

The second guideline is the promotion of the training and growth of Italian researchers. In fact, high techno-scientific training is one of the fundamental levels for the country's economic system competitiveness. In this ambit, the Italian Space Agency proposes that, as an active subject, who intervenes to support professionals in their training needs as, for example, how to operate in an applicative context and use advanced technology.

For what concerns the objectives of educational activities, it is needed to make two preliminary statements. First, the lack of knowledge regarding aerospace activities, and second, the need to promote education and training programmes for teachers and students.

In this context, educational activities are important means to reach these goals: to popularize aerospace education with high and junior high school students and their families; to promote the interest of young people in scientific and technical subjects; to incentive the use of high-tech and satellite technology, teacher and student educational programmes will use aerospace applications; and to steer students into scientific and technical studies and careers.

In the training context, the decrease of university students in science _____(?) the necessity to develop high-technical scientific and technical training activities in order to reach these goals: to further professional and technical goals; to encourage students to major in science subject areas; to support students, newly graduates and young researchers, improving their skills; and to promote employment opportunities in the field of space science and technology and their applications.

The Italian Space Agency promotes the education and culture of space technologies and application. Several programmes are dedicated to teachers and students in order to support the spread of the aerospace culture and the use of high-tech and satellite technology. Some of the most important in progress are the Aerospace Web Channel, the Parabolic Flight, the Stratospheric Balloon Flight and the Educational Aerospace Videogame.

In particular, the Italian Space Agency, in collaboration with the Italian Aerospace Research Centre, is coordinating the activities concerning the programme "Aerospace Web Channel". The main purpose of this programme is to broadcast, via satellite, education modules regarding aerospace topics, suitable for younger students. The Aerospace Web Channel is the Italian Space Agency's education main programme and the new way of studying scientific subjects. It is based on the best known technologies, such as computers and satellite TV and provides a more direct connection between schools and aerospace researchers. The Aerospace Web Channel intends to transmit through the Internet or satellite educational modules and/or events of particular impact.

The first users of the Aerospace Web Channel are the high schools. In fact, it was experimented in 2004 with 50 scientific and technical high schools. These schools are attended by young people who, in the medium term, will be making important choices for their future. The students study the physical laws and complex phenomena which filmed(?) our lives and lessons and had direct contact with the researchers from the Italian Space Agency and the Italian Space Research Centre.

The Italian Space Agency, in cooperation with CHIRA(?), the Italian Aerospace Research Centre, is now preparing a new Aerospace Web Channel edition which will start in late 2006 (2007?). The new edition will involve nearly 500 high schools.

The Aerospace Web Channel programme is supported by a website representing a cultural bridge between schools and the institutions. It promotes the spread of aerospace culture. The Aerospace Web Channel portal has an archive with di- _____(?)modules, an aerospace library and a photo gallery.

The other educational programmes, the Stratospheric Balloon Flight, the Parabolic Flight and the Educational Aerospace Videogame, are related to the Aerospace Web Channel.

During the first Aerospace Web Channel edition, the Italian Space Agency organized a contest to award prizes to the best scientific experiment designed by the participating schools. The aim is to provide students with practical experience, to enhance their interest in space technology. In June 2005, on the winning experiments flew on a stratospheric balloon from the Italian Space Agency's Space Centre in Trapani.

Another winning experiment of the “call for ideas” announced in the Web Channel, is relative to micro-gravity experiments on parabolic flights of the campaigns organized by the European Space Agency and that infers(?) students. The Italian Space Agency is supporting the experiment that will be tested in September 2006.

The new Aerospace Web Channel editions foresees a substantial increment of the interactive applications and the development of an education aerospace videogame useful to propose students, mainly teenagers from 14 to 18, the concepts of basic physics in a recreational and fascinating way, so-called “Edutainment”. In the first phase, the Videogame will be available on the Internet and downloadable.

As its main activities to promote the training and growth of Italian researchers are Doctorates for graduates and Post-Doctorate scholarships for young researchers on space subjects, for example, aerospace engineering, physics, astronomy, biomedicine, chemistry, electronics, etc.

The scholarships are related to the most important scientific programmes managed by the Italian Space Agency.

The second training projects are internships for university students and newly graduates at the Italian Space Agency offices and centres.

Every year, the Italian Space Agency supports and takes part in education events, organized by the Italian Ministry of University and Research for schools and families: the National Astronomy Week, and the Scientific and Technology Education Week.

During these events, the Italian Space Agency, the Italian Ministry of University and Research and other Italian institutions involved in science education, organize meetings with experts, by the visits of science museums and centres, at laboratories and planetariums.

The main returns of education and training activities are of two kinds.

Strategic. A goodwill for space topics and highly specialized space training. And the second main return is social. Through education and training activities, we have youth education specialization in the scientific and technological aerospace and space field and their applications. And we have the orientation of the youth towards scientific studies.

For what concerns the international cooperation, in the Italian Space Agency vision, education and training are seen as the main tool of international cooperation. Italy is engaged in several space education initiatives with international partners, such as the United States, Argentina and Kenya.

The cooperation between the Italian Space Agency and NASA in the field of education concerns the Italian Aerospace Web Channel, in particular through the exchange of materials to be used for the Aerospace Web Channel, the joint development of interactive applications and games to teach aerospace to students, and the link between the selected Italian secondary schools and the American ones for the exchange of students and teachers and the development of common training projects.

In the field of human resources training and the development of space technology applications, the Italian Space Agency contributes to the establishment of the Mario Gulich Institute of Advanced Space Studies in Cordoba, Argentina, in order to promote high-level education in the field of Earth observation applications and technology. The Italian Space Agency annually coordinates high-level education fellowships provided by the Italian Government for Argentinian students in the field of natural disaster prediction and risk management. The Institute is devoted to the development of advanced methods of applying space information to the Earth environment and natural and man-made disasters using state-of-the-art technology and working in a multi-disciplinary environment. The Institute is an Italian-Argentine Centre of Excellence that will use the data of the _____(?) system, the Italian-Argentine satellite system for emergency management.

In the frame of the Inter-Government Agreement between Italy and Kenya, regarding the satellite tracking and launch station of the Italian-based Broglia Space Centre in Malindi, Kenya, Italy continues to support the technical education and professional training of Kenyans, Post-Graduate and Doctorate.

According to the first resolution of the Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development, great efforts have been made by Italy on enhancement of education and training opportunities and this is also its plan for the future.

Thank you.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Germana Garofalo for this excellent presentation of the Italian Space Agency's work in education and training. Thank you very much for this very complete presentation, an extremely good one, if I may say so.

It is five to one but nonetheless, I am going to call on our representative from Argentina.

Mr. F. MENICOCCHI (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I just wanted to say thank you for this wonderful presentation by the lady from Italy and thanks to cooperation that we have with the Italian Space Agency, we have been able to send 60 fellows to Italy to train in emergencies. So there is excellent cooperation between Argentina and Italy and we have sent people to train in floods, volcanism, fires and other areas. So we hope that this very fruitful cooperation will continue so that Gulich becomes a Centre of Excellence for all countries, especially the Latin American countries.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate from Argentina for that statement, which confirms the excellence of the cooperation that is going on between Italy and Argentina in space.

The third statement, or presentation, which we had planned for this morning must be postponed to this afternoon, given the very late hour of our morning session. So we are going to adjourn this session of the Committee but I would like to make some announcements for the working programme this afternoon.

We will meet again at 3.00 p.m. We will then continue with our study of item 8, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Third Session, and in particular, I think, we will have a progress report on the Working Group of this Subcommittee on Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

Then we are going to continue Space and Society because we did not have time to finish that. Then we will also move on to 12, which is Space and Water. Then we will also begin item 13, Recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society. And we will continue our consideration of agenda item 14, Other Matters.

At the end of this afternoon's meeting, there will be four technical presentations. There will be a presentation by Peter Martinez from South Africa, the one that we have postponed, two technical presentations from India and Japan, and then one from UNESCO.

I would also like to put the question to whether you have questions about this afternoon's programme which, as you can see, is going to be rather a full programme this afternoon.

I see none. So I am now going to adjourn the meeting. Thank you. And we will meet at 3.00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 13.00 p.m.