

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript***575th** Meeting

Tuesday, 12 June 2007, 3 p.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. G. Brachet (France)*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Ladies and gentlemen. I would like to call to order the 575th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I hope that you found the documentaries, screened during lunchtime today, interesting. Tomorrow there will be a documentary on the Ukrainian space industry.

This afternoon, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 10, space and society. We will start on agenda item 13, other matters, as well as, agenda item 11, space and water and, time permitting, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 12, use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development. At the end of this afternoon's meeting, there will be a technical presentation by Mr. Radhakrishnan of India under agenda item 12, entitled, use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development.

I would like to remind delegates, not having already done so, to submit to the Secretariat by the end of this afternoon's meeting any changes they might have to the provisional list of participants that was distributed as CRP.2 on Friday, last week so that the Secretariat can issue the final list of participants.

Before we start our consideration of agenda item 10, I would like to give the floor, once again, to the Venezuelan delegation, wishing to address agenda item 8, the report of the Legal Subcommittee.

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

Ms. N. ORIHUELA-GUEVARA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would like to reiterate its support of and respect of the legal principles on which the exploration and use of outer space to peaceful ends has taken place on. We would like to say that, we have ratified the Outer Space Treaty and the Agreement governing the activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects, as well as, the Satellite Telecommunication Agreement and we have signed the Agreement on the Return of Astronauts and returning objects launched into outer space.

Since this legal forum is working on this, we would like to point out that since the 1980s we have not had any real contribution to the thinking on the regulation of outer space. We believe that we should give thought to how we can develop new, effective standards to implement instruments already in effect to adapt to the change of technologies and new emerging factors. We must take into account the fact that standards regulating outer space law cannot be rigid and immutable, they must be dynamic and flexible, adaptable to future concerns. It certainly is necessary for future generations, it is necessary to emphasize general interests over the particular and the specific and public order should be given pride of place. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much, distinguished

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.



colleague representing the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for your information and your support of the activities of the Legal Subcommittee.

I believe that our distinguished colleague from Greece has asked for the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On item 8, I would like to start off by thanking colleagues who have worked to ensure the success, limited though it may be, of the Subcommittee and I would like to support the efforts of my legal expert colleagues, Mr. Sergio Marchisio as well as other colleagues, who have done their utmost so that this Committee and its working groups should be able to reach a satisfactory result.

Nonetheless, as I have already stated in the course of my general introduction, there is a rather remarkable lack of more tangible results of work of the Subcommittee because, as you aware, as we all are, it has been almost 20 years now that we have not concluded a convention or at least a declaration on certain subjects which have been pending since 1986. Here I am referring to the two proposals of my country to transform the declaration and principles of remote sensing of the Earth into an international treaty, into an international text, an international legally binding instrument. There is also pending a joint proposal of the Czech Republic and of my country concerning space debris and possibly, what with the success scored within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee behind us, we could review our attitude, not the principles and guidelines but our attitude, to this major topic of concern to mankind as a whole. There is a need for us to conduct much more serious work, in-depth work, going along the avenues that, the people establishing our group thought it terms of. If you take a look at the photographs of our group as well as all the plenary meetings and then after, the establishment of the two Subcommittees, you take a look at the representatives of countries, the level of discussion taking place, I personally, occasionally am ashamed that we cannot really compare ourselves to the monumental work that was accomplished before by colleagues preceding us.

Before I conclude, I would like to repeat what I also said as an aside during my general statement on our follow-up, albeit in the full Committee or the two Subcommittees, Legal for me, to the events having to do with the development of international space rules outside of this forum.

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues, I must work so that your proposal for the future of our Committee would produce as expeditious realization as possible of that work but two or three weeks ago we noted that there was a tendency, within the context of very powerful international organizations, such as NATO and within the western European Union as well, as I said before. The Interparliamentary Council of NATO was thinking in terms of a treaty to cover all existing lacunae, in other words, regulating space matters and the same concern is expressed within the western European Union with regard to the management of space activities by an international governmental organizations.

Mr. Chairman, I sometimes get the impression that we are working in isolation, we are working *in vitro* and the Committee should rather be open and be very much connected to other organizations, be they international or regional in scope. ITU, UNESCO, ICEO and IMCO, we should certainly be very, very coordinated with. We have to review and update our attitudes and our stances. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much, Mr. Cassapoglou for that statement of yours which calls upon the Legal Subcommittee to be more in step with topical matters and on the other point, the coordination of this Committee with other international bodies seeking to address concerns in our field, indeed possibly we should make an effort, member States of our Committee which also are participating in WEU assembly or NATO meetings, could indeed recall and refer to the work going on in our Committee.

Now we can get back to agenda item 10, space and society and I have the pleasure of calling upon Valery Timofeev who is the Head of the Bureau of Radiocommunication of the International Telecommunication Union. Mr. Timofeev has been the Director of Radiocommunication since October 2002 and his mandate has been renewed last November. I would especially like to thank Mr. Timofeev for his kind presence here.

Space and society (agenda item 10)

Mr. V. TIMOFEEV (International Telecommunication Union): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, let me thank the Director

for the kind invitation, to the ITU management, to participate in this fiftieth session of the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Dr. Touré has asked me to convey his regrets for the inability to be present here today in this important celebration.

It is to be noted that the number 50 may be chosen as the slogan for this meeting of COPUOS not only because of its fiftieth session but also because, in October this year, we are to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the launch of the first Sputnik which opened the door for the new space age and it is a great honour for me to represent ITU which has a lot of important tasks to support the space activities of its members.

The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is founded on the principle of cooperation between governments and the private sector. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, its membership includes 191 member States and more than 700 entities, referred to as sector members or associates. ITU is unique among international organizations as it is formerly open to the private sector through our system of sector membership. The private companies have helped ITU to guide and strengthen its work in standards, harmonization, spectrum management and development. ITU has traditionally provided a forum where equipment manufacturers, network operators, service and application providers can discuss together the development of new market opportunities and learn from each other's experience.

Being the leading United Nations agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), ITU is helping the world to communicate through the activity of which three core sectors, radio communication, telecommunication standardization and development. The history of ITU is intimately linked with the development of radio communications. Today we are all witnessing a phenomenal increase of the use of wireless systems in a myriad of applications like, WiFi, Bluetooth, 3G, WiMAX, _____ (inaudible), UWB and other mysterious mnemonics.

_____ (inaudible) tasks in the radio-communication space sphere are carried out in the ITU radiocommunications sector. Its aim is to achieve consensus for the rational use of a vast and growing range of wireless services, including those based on new space radiocommunication technologies and other related fields of activity. ITU plays a vital role in the global management of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. Limited national resources which

are increasingly in demand from a large number of services such as fixed, mobile, broadcasting, amateur space research, meteorological, global positioning systems, environmental monitoring and communication services, that ensure safety of life on land, at sea and in the skies. ITU manages the detailed coordination and recording procedures for space systems and their stations. Its main role is to process and publish data and to carry out examination frequency assignments, notices submitted by administrations for inclusion in the formal coordination procedures or for recording in the master international frequency register.

ITU also develops and manages the space-related assignments or allotment plans, it also provides mechanisms for the development of new satellite services by locating them suitable orbital frequency slots. ITU accommodates the launch of new satellites as quickly and as efficiently as possible and also facilitates any new development and continuation of any satellite services in a safe way and squeezes more in the frequency which is a limited resource internationally and nationally.

How satellite networks are brought into service as well as the regulatory steps for registering satellite network frequency assignments are our main concern. Since the global use and management of frequencies requires a fair level of international cooperation, one of the principal tasks of the ITU radiocommunication bureau is to facilitate the complex intergovernmental negotiations needed to develop legally binding agreements between sovereign States. These agreements are embodied in the radio regulations and in world and regional plans adopted for different space interests and services. Today, the radio regulations apply to frequencies ranging from 9 KHz to 400 GHz and now incorporate over 1,000 pages of information describing how this spectrum must be used and shared around the globe. In an increasingly unwired world some 40 different radio services now compete for allocations to provide the spectrum needed to extend applications or support a larger number of users.

The first coming ITU World Radio-communication Conference, in October and November this year, will consider the results of the studies on options to improve the international spectrum regulatory framework based on the examination of the effectiveness, appropriateness and impact of the radio regulations with respect to the evolution of existing, emerging and future application systems and technologies. The main task of the conference will be to decide upon the most profitable and efficient ways

to exploit the limited resource of frequency spectrum and satellite orbits which will be critical and increasingly valuable for the development of the global economy in the twenty-first century. Encouraging communication between nations, through the harmonious development of the tools made available to them, is the ultimate goal of ITU. The results are the handbooks, recommendations, space software and databases online which are readily available to all. _____ (*inaudible*) with the satisfaction this morning that many of you already visited the ITU stand and got some more detailed information there.

Describing different aspects of space interest of radio applications one must not forget the indispensable use of radio for the safety of life and in disaster prevention and relief operations. Radiocommunication services associated with disasters including the earlier disaster prediction, detection, alerting and disaster relief, in certain cases when the wired interest of telecommunication infrastructure is significantly or completely destroyed only space radiocommunication services can be employed quickly for disaster relief operation. The ITU radiocommunication sector studies possibilities for identification of suitable frequency bands that could be used on a global regional basis for public protection and disaster relief as well as on facilitating cross-border circulation of equipment intended for use in emergency and disaster relief situations. The second of these tasks being reinforced by the temporary convention on the provision of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations.

The crucial role wireless systems are playing in the efficient and timely deployment of communications infrastructure is also a key factor in the efforts being undertaken by the global community to bridge the digital divide. ICTs are omnipresent tools with profound implications for all economic sectors. We have all become familiar with e-commerce, e-government, e-learning and e-health economic development. ICT facilitates everything from a banking transaction to emergency and disaster relief through radiocommunications. In all those systems, satellites play a very important role in particular for rural telecommunications in remote areas where Earth stations may be the only means to communicate. The digital divide is one of the global issues that will shape our common future in the twenty-first century. Our success in finding viable and sustainable solutions to bridging the digital divide will determine to what extent we are able to fulfil the world summit on the information society vision of building an exclusive _____ (*inaudible*) centre then development-oriented information society, open to all.

World leaders recognized the critical importance of information and communications technologies as key factors of economic and social development.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, ITU has a noble ambition to connect the world. To achieve that goal we need to work in partnership with other United Nations organizations like COPUOS at first place, governments, private sector and civil society. With that aim in mind, let me indicate our full support to the ideas and vision for future development in activities presented by the Chairman in his document and express the best wishes for our future collaboration so that we can together respond to the challenges of connecting the world. Only then it will be possible to extend the benefits of new telecommunication and ICT technologies to all the world's inhabitants. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank Mr. Timofeev for his statement on behalf of the International Telecommunication Union. As you have recalled, Mr. Timofeev, ITU in October/November is organizing its World Radiocommunication Conference for which important decisions will be taken with respect to frequency allocations especially for satellite services, sometimes at the expense of satellite services perhaps I should add and of course, we as the space community, very much wish to see the interests of satellite communication services being preserved at that conference.

Would there be any further delegations wishing to speak on this item?

Distinguished delegate of Greece you have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): I must begin my statement with some emotion because in January of this year I would venture to say that it was the thirtieth anniversary of my attendance as representative of my country at the ITU. Thirty years ago I was a young man and I am not so young anymore but I am moved because when the five elected officials of ITU, we have among us today my dear friend and colleague in the broadest sense, the former Deputy Minister of the Russian Federation for Telecommunications and who was elected by the Plenipotentiary Conference, a second time, it is very rare, Mr. Chairman, to have a case such as you have today of having a great elected official, such a senior figure from an international organization and I must say and stress that his

attendance today will mean that we will also have our other long-standing friend, as well as Valery, that is Mr. Hamadoun Touré, the Secretary-General of ITU, he was not able to attend today but I hope in due course he will. Mr. Timofeev has done a sterling job of filling the void left by Mr. Touré.

I must tell you, Chairman, and through you kindly I must tell our colleagues here, that not so long ago, ITU, in the glorious days when we were in New York, was represented by its Deputy Secretary General who would stay in New York for several days in order to track events, unfortunately that wonderful tradition which betokened the fraternity which existed between our two organizations was not followed afterwards. I would also like to point out that for economic reasons, which I have never understood although I have had to accept them of course, ITU was not able to produce its annual report on its space activities, let us say its contribution to space activities. It was an annual report which was always annexed to the report of our Committee so that all the nations represented in the United Nations could be familiar with these developments, so that they knew what was happening in ITU. Through you, Chairman, could I kindly convey to our dear guest our wish for an effort to be made for this annual report of ITU to reappear, be it in electronic form or in paper form, preferably both, so that we should know exactly what ITU is doing, not just in Geneva, but around the world.

After these introductory comments, I would also like to remind that, ITU is the first international organization to have approved the first international space treaty, ITU is the pioneer, the trail blazer in international space law. In 1959 first of all and subsequently in 1963, it approved, through its regulatory system, through the various radiocommunication conferences, the first regulations for the allocation of frequency bands. Firstly for space research then subsequently, as of 1963, for new radiocommunication services involving space, be they space-based or Earth-based. So you can see that the role of ITU is perhaps little known but we must always look to it as an example of how legislators should behave, this is very important. In the context of ITU you did not have lawyers or diplomats but you had engineers in the broadest sense of the term. It was the engineers who founded the operational rules of international space law, it is a monumental, colossal, endeavour which the whole of mankind should take into account.

Subsequently, Chairman, so that I do not abuse your time, I should conclude with two other examples. At the Nairobi 1982 plenipotentiary

conferences, it was ITU that adopted the great legal principle of binding regulations pertaining to the shared use of the geostationary orbit and associated frequencies. We have article 33 in the Telecommunication Convention of Nairobi upon which, the practical solution to the problem of the use of the geostationary orbit is based and which then came to this Legal Committee and has been stuck in the Legal Committee for God knows how many years.

I would like to conclude by saying, dear Chairman and colleagues, that in recalling that it was through another regulatory measure by ITU and, you will understand this in a broad sense of the term as an engineer and as a scientist, it is thanks to ITU that there is an obligation upon States to submit to ITU a report on due diligence before it can actually install, or bring on-stream, systems which may not actually be viable for space satellite services. In my opinion, the problem of use, not just of the geostationary orbit but also, of other orbits is more or less resolved. What is of concern to us now is something which is much more political than scientific and technical and that is the question of so-called paper satellites, much as I dislike the term.

With these comments I would like to thank you for your patience for listening to me, I would like to extend to all my colleagues in Geneva and everywhere around the world from ITU, my wishes that they will continue to contribute to connectivity between the whole of mankind.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of Greece for recalling, for our purposes and for our benefits, the massive contribution of ITU for many years especially with respect to frequency allocations and orbital positions, when they were discussing the very first developments in space, be it scientific research or observation or fixed services, broadcasting services, mobile services as well. It is important for all delegations to be fully conscious of the extremely important role, as a manager of the frequency spectrum, played by for many years now by ITU and, indeed of course, all the member States that are members of that organization.

I see my colleague from the Czech Republic requesting the floor.

Mr. P. LÁLA (Czech Republic): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our delegation has been listening very carefully to the statement by the representative of ITU and we appreciated particularly the positive attitude of ITU to closer cooperation with COPUOS in future on

important issues of space communications and in particular the geostationary orbit. In this context, I would like to ask, through you, the representative of ITU, what are the regulations of access to ITU databases. This valuable and unique resource would be a very useful tool for our deliberations to enrich our future deliberations. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank our distinguished colleague from the Czech Republic and I turn towards the representative of the International Telecommunication Union to see if he would like to provide some answers to the question which has just been asked.

Mr. V. TIMOFEEV (International Telecommunication Union): Let me try to answer the question in two ways. First, we have of course two different kinds of information, one which is open in our website for public use which is the list of all those satellite networks registered and some other data. We also have some information distributed regularly, with our weekly circulars, to the administrations and also we have a possibility to provide access for administrations to our internal databases on a request basis. Mr. Chairman, let me guarantee that all the data which we have there in the _____ (*inaudible*) are for the administrations. If anybody has any difficulty just contact us and everything will be open for your practical utilization.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. Timofeev, for that answer which I think is very satisfactory in responding to the concern expressed by the distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic.

Would there be any further statements or questions? Still under item 10 and perhaps related to Mr. Timofeev's statement.

I see none.

It just remains for me to thank the various speakers who have addressed this item 10. With your permission, ladies and gentlemen, representatives, let us move on to the commencement of our consideration of item 13, which is other matters.

As I said this morning, on item 13, there are a number of matters, we will try to deal with one of them this afternoon, which is that pertaining to the request for membership of two States wishing to become members of the Committee. Those two States as you know are Bolivia and Switzerland. Initially I would

like to ask them, that is the delegations of Bolivia and Switzerland, whether they wish to take the floor for a few moments just to confirm their interest in becoming members of the Committee.

Other matters (agenda item 13)

Mr. H. BAZOBERRY-OTERO (Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you, Chairman, and as you have rightly pointed out we have circulated, through the Secretariat, a note A/AC.105/267/CRP.12 in which the Bolivian Government, which I represent, requests that the Committee might consider the incorporation of my country in the deliberations carried out by COPUOS. Bolivia has participated, of course as an observer, in the proceedings of the Subcommittee on scientific and technical matters as well as the Legal Subcommittee.

There are two important points which I would like to mention, that is, that Bolivia thinks that as developing countries we must also take active part in discussing the experiences and the research and use of space technologies and applications. All of those present here, in one way or another, wish to see progress made on a number of systems. Many of you have presented exhibitions on this floor, showing the progress, the advances in space, thanks to your policies, thanks to the importance which you attach to space technology for development. As we can see downstairs and as any citizen working in the United Nations can see, there is a whole host of applications being developed thanks to this technology whether it is with respect to erosion which is a case for our country, deforestation, mining or, indeed, the crucial issue of water on which we have had a symposium in this room.

I also do not want to neglect the importance of legal aspects, better definition of what the geostationary orbit should be, how we should use it as well as how developing countries may make better use of it, there too the Committee is very important, once something has been defined or determined then there is much more scope for progress. Once a discovery is made we can then make better use of it. I do not want to dwell on other concepts, which technicians and representatives here have demonstrated through their own presentations, I just wish to repeat the wish of my Government to be a member of this Committee. Thank you, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Bolivia and I would now like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Switzerland.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*): Dear representatives, without wishing to repeat the points made in our statement under item 4 of the agenda, the general debate, our observer delegation would like to recall the active part Switzerland has taken since UNISPACE III in the work of this Committee and its subcommittees as well as the support my country has extended to the activities developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, such as the Workshop on the use of space technologies for the sustainable development in mountainous regions, Himalayas and the Hindu Kush organized in Kathmandu in 2004.

This year our country is delighted to contribute to the establishment of a SPIDER liaison office in Geneva.

Mr. Chairman, our delegation would like to restate the interest of my country in joining the Committee, as a full member, so that its participation in the work and activities of the Committee and its subcommittees may be facilitated and so that its actions are bolstered. Thank you, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Madam Archinard for your statement on behalf of Switzerland.

Would there be any comments on these two candidacies?

The distinguished delegate of Greece has the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): We are delighted to see two candidacies from both sides of the world. Greece is so deeply tied to both countries, the Swiss Confederation and Bolivia alike.

I will begin with Bolivia because it was at the same time that our countries, inspired by the great principle of the French Revolution, gained their liberation. Bolivar for us was the "liberador", the liberator, so all of those countries of Latin America who freed themselves from colonialism of that era are still very dear to us today. We would like to see among us Bolivia as a fully-fledged member.

As regards the Swiss Confederation, we have very tangible ties too, as you may know, although this is more the purview of the historians. The Constitution of the Swiss Confederation, even at the conceptual level, was the work of a great eminent figure of international politics of the nineteenth century,

Capodistrias, who was one of the most outstanding individuals of the Congress of Vienna and who became Foreign Minister. Capodistrias had this idea of producing a viable State and, as you know, in Geneva there is a plaque on the tree of the house where he lived before he left the country to come to Greece and become the first governor, of course he was assassinated subsequently by agents of some of the powers at that time who did not wish to see Greece playing its due role in the family of nations.

It is said that in politics, especially international politics, there are no feelings, there is no sentiment but you can see that we do have sentiments derived from memory, so there are very strong reasons why Switzerland should also become a fully-fledged member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. First of all, the Swiss Confederation is already a fully-fledged member of the United Nations. It is the host country not only for the United Nations but also most of the other specialized agencies of the United Nations. It is the country where one feels at home, irrespective of one's nationality, again I am being sentimental but it is a fact.

Thirdly, its contribution would be vital. I have seen its participation in ITU, long before ITU was so called, so established. It has also made it possible for the liaison office to be set up in Geneva for SPIDER which is something we are very much in support of, we very much wish to see it set up in Switzerland, in Geneva, which is in Switzerland after all.

To conclude, we would like to say that we too support the approval of Switzerland's request to be a fully-fledged member of our Committee. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Cassapoglou for your support extended to those two candidacies. I would now like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

Ms. N. ORIHUELA-GUEVARA (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Venezuela also welcomes these memberships in COPUOS. We feel that space matters are of global importance and it is vital that we thus develop fair access to space resources. Bolivia's participation is of special interest. Bolivia is a country which is covered by the Simon Bolivar satellite, it is a fraternal country with developing important social programmes at this time for its development especially in the field of education. So, Venezuela welcomes Bolivia's entry into this organization and we repeat, that our interest, as a

country, is to boost new progress in space matters and this can only be facilitated by having Bolivia as a member among our ranks. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Madam for this support for the candidacy of Bolivia.

Any further requests?

Distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Mr. B. MOREJÓN-ALMEIDA (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I cannot omit to welcome the request just made by Bolivia for its membership. It is most welcome to the Latin America group which is so active on these issues and in these proceedings of COPUOS. Given that Ecuador has the temporary chairmanship and hosting of the Space Conference of the Americas, we feel that Bolivia's membership would be positive and important and that is why I restate my satisfaction that Bolivia has asked to become an active member of this Committee. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Ambassador for your statement in support of Bolivia's candidacy. If there are no further statements then I would suggest that we approve this motion and we recommend to the General Assembly that Switzerland and Bolivia become full members of our Committee.

I see no objection. I consider that the applause tokens our approval.

It is so decided.

We will be presenting these candidacies to the General Assembly.

Now candidates to observer status with the Committee, I believe we have three candidacies on the part of non-governmental organizations. The first of these is the European Southern Hemisphere Observatory.

Do we have a representative of the other organizations amongst us?

Do we have a representative of the European Southern Hemisphere Observatory?

I do not believe we do.

We also have the candidacy of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS).

Would we have a representative of this organization wishing to speak?

Mr. A. SIALA (African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, delegates, I would like at the outset to greet you all and to extend my gratitude to the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) and its Director, Mr. Sergio Camacho and to the Chair and the Secretariat of the United Nations, COPUOS, for the invitation extended to AOCRS to attend this session as an observer, upon our request. I would like take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to you and to the rest of the members of our Bureaux, in my name and, in the name of the AOCRS, for all your beneficial acts for humanity and for your respectful role. I would also like to congratulate you for your good activities that you have extended to drive this Committee forward and for the successes of this Committee and of the two subcommittees.

I would also like to congratulate you and congratulate all those present on the fiftieth anniversary of COPUOS and for all the achievements of this Committee during the last 50 years.

Mr. Chairman, members, we appreciate sincerely all the activities of COPUOS and are well aware of the effective role it plays in the service of our small planet. It was a pleasure for us, during the last years when I participated in your Committee within the delegation of my country, to note the major advances made by COPUOS and today, for my new position as the Secretary-General of AOCRS and out of the interest of all our organization in cartography and remote sensing and other space-related activities. It is my pleasure to request observer membership in your organization and we would take part in all the activities of your Committee in the service of its success and in the success of sustainable development using space sciences.

In brief, I would like to introduce our organization, AOCRS. Our organization was established in 1988 when African countries deemed it necessary to integrate the Cartography Association for Africa and the African Council for Remote Sensing to establish the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing. At present our organization includes 24 African member countries and the door is open for other countries that would wish to join. The

headquarters of the organization is in Algeria and there are four regional offices in Tunisia, Kenya, Nigeria and Burkina Faso and it seeks to coordinate between the member States on questions of cartography and remote sensing. The organization has also prepared projects for a hydrological map of the African continent and examines the possibility of using space technologies to prepare other such digital maps of hydrography and other natures, in addition to maps that would assist in combating desertification.

A large number of African countries have recently prepared topographic maps of their lands, however, the continent is so far very poor in coverage of mapping with suitable measures and accuracy. The African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing will seek, as of now, to make good use of space technologies as a priority in its work and will encourage African States, member States and non-member States to establish national committees for the peaceful use of outer space and to benefit from space technology to support sustainable development, as well as encouraging African States members in COPUOS to intensify their participation in the meetings and in the meetings of the subcommittees of COPOUS and we shall put all our organization in the service of COPUOS within our capacities.

Upon your approval and agreement we shall place our future programmes to study the possibility, along with OOSA, to coordinate the establishment and convening of workshops and short training sessions in the field of space technology. We thank the member States and groups for their support for our joining your Committee and we look forward to the occasion given to us to work together and to make every effort to serve the activities of this Committee and its goals. I thank you for providing me with this opportunity to address you I thank you and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Siala for your presentation of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing, comprising 24 African countries.

We are now going to be giving the floor to the representative of the Secure World Foundation, which is the third NGO requesting observer status.

Mr. D. ALDWORTH (Secure World Foundation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I would like to compliment you on your forward-looking approach that you have taken over the course of your chairmanship, in particular, to the excellent paper, which you have written after wide consultation, on the

issues involved in the role of COPUOS and the maintenance of its full relevance to new uses for space. I believe that this initiative is both necessary and exciting and will serve to position the global community, represented in COPUOS, to better manage the expanding benefits which we all receive from space.

I would also like to make reference to the outstanding work of Dr. Sergio Camacho-Lara in his inclusive approach to the application of space-based services to the developing world. This has undoubtedly affected the lives of thousands, if not millions, of people in a positive way and no matter how he chooses to use his skills in the future, he can take his retire from COPUOS with the satisfaction of having made a difference.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take the opportunity of this application for observer status for the Secure World Foundation to provide COPUOS members with a bit of background on the Foundation.

As you will have seen from the attachments to the application which was circulated to all delegations, SWF is a relatively young foundation, headquartered in Superior, Colorado, USA, with offices in Canada and China.

Our objective, simply stated, is to do whatever we can to maintain a secure world, absent of war, where all can benefit from the global and integrating forces of technology and economics. We believe that international cooperation, rule of law and reliable mechanisms of enforcement can provide the basics for new global systems which will provide stability and order in space as it continues its dramatic transformation and which will help to settle conflicts in space, peacefully. We believe that the better space actors understand what is expected of them and of space actors by others, the less will be the likelihood of any escalation of conflict when frictions do occur. The establishment of order in space activities will also enable benefits to more effectively be shared between all world nations and will increasingly set norms of behaviour that can act as the foundation for further international cooperation.

As a result of these benefits the international programming of the Secure World Foundation will focus on supporting and developing systems of space governance. Secure World Foundation programming will include helping to establish enforceable, law-based systems for space security, recognizing that the world's increasing reliance on space-based benefits and the continuing progressive development of space requires

new rules, procedures and institutions of government for the expansion of commercial traffic management, debris mitigation, exploration, asteroid defence and communications.

In order to enhance space security, the Secure World Foundation will do the following:

- We will catalyse and promote long term prospectives and plans within and among various constituencies involved in space;
- We will convene military, industry, interagency and intergovernmental stakeholders to engage in dialogue and of planning;
- We will fund and disseminate data, enhance knowledge, promote awareness and transparency, for both space-faring nations and those that use space-based applications, so that they are better informed and can make better decisions;
- We support confidence-building measures, norms, regulations, rules of conduct and international treaties ultimately leading to a system of laws, agreements and arrangements to cover space activities;
- We will promote the creation of monitoring and surveillance systems so that all stakeholders can trust that the agreed rules or guidelines are being followed;
- We will encourage international cooperative ventures that strengthen global integration and interdependence of space utilization; and
- We will seek out support and collaborate with partners worldwide to demonstrate the expertise and capabilities to enhance space security.

Mr. Chairman, while the Secure World Foundation continues to set our own organization and capabilities in place, I would like to advise member States of some of the programmes that have already taken place.

As an example, the US/China space dialogue is a partnership between the Secure World Foundation and the World Security Institute with costs of the Beijing office, devoted to space issues, divided between the two organizations. The Secure World

Foundation also underwrites the cost of consultants to work on this project. We are working with the Planetary Society on the development of an international lunar decade. We are working in a partnership with the Global Security Institute to increase awareness, within the United Nations structure, of the need to advance a cooperative legal regime in outer space. We have sponsored a panel on outer space security at the recent NPT PrepCom. We are working with the e-parliament Organization to develop a space network of parliamentarians from all over the world, an idea bank of possible legislative actions and hearings on the issue of space security and on this point, a session on space security with the European Parliament is being planned for later this year.

We provide travel costs and experts to attend international meetings on space, including the annual _____ (*inaudible*) space conference in Geneva which is held on the margins of the Conference on Disarmament. Space Generation Advisory Council membership attendance, the International Astronautical Association Congress and the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety.

We also have a partnership with the Government of Canada and non-governmental organizations to fund research and meetings necessary to produce the annual space security index, which is an annual comprehensive and integrated assessment of space security. We have been funding the production of research papers on the development of an ICEO for space through the University of McGill's School of Air and Space Law and we are working on that also with the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety. We have a partnership with the Association of Space Explorers for the development of a protocol for international decision-making body to track and respond to near Earth objects.

In addition, our sister organization, the Arsenaault Family Foundation, has provided grants to the International Space University this summer to conduct a summer session group project in Beijing on space traffic management and to present its results to the IAC in Hyderabad, India, this coming September.

Financial contributions to work by the Simpson Centre on an international project to establish a suggested space code of conduct has been made.

Finally we have made some financial contributions to work by the Reaching Critical Will Association who provide updates on items at the Conference on Disarmament and the First Committee.

Last year our funding was split fairly equally between the United States and on international projects. Our funding is increasing year by year, by the end of five years we will have \$125 million under management, plus annual increases due to research and investment.

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation appreciates the opportunity to attend and observe the meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We look forward to supporting the Committee's activities in any way we can in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you for your statement and your presentation of the Secure World Foundation.

Would there be any delegations wishing to speak regarding the application of these three candidates. I see Algeria, Syrian Republic, Greece, Nigeria. First I will give the floor to our distinguished colleague from Algeria.

Mr. A. OUSSEDIK (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you. Our delegation would like, of course, to support the application made on behalf of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing. This will indeed have a very positive impact on the development of Africa because space activity and the use of space technologies will become much more disseminated. In Algeria, our headquarters organization encourages the use of remote sensing, cartography, for the management of resources for the fight against droughts. There is an appropriate regional and international context and indeed this will reinforce the work of COPUOS. COPUOS activities in the fields of concern to Africa will certainly enhance this organization's work and COPUOS will be reinforcing its vision of Africa's concerns when this organization joins as an observer. Along these lines I would certainly would like to endorse this application.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Oussedik for your very clear and confirmed support of this African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing's candidacy.

I believe that Mr. Cassapoglou wishes to speak on behalf of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): On the African Organization's candidacy here, we certainly very much support this. We are familiar with the efforts deployed

by our African friends to follow the development of science and technology and we are aware of their efforts to get fair expression of concerns in the company of more favourite, more advantaged countries. You are aware of this as well since you work for CNES. This is indeed the cornerstone of all development be it scientific and technological, be it general education, health, cultural, political, all of these dimensions are comprised. The economic aspects are sometimes much less important than the other aspects so we certainly are in favour of having the African Organization join as permanent observer.

As concerns the associations. There we have some general considerations and reservations. This matter of consideration of representation. We have to see exactly where these organizations are from, how many members are comprised in their ranks and what is the source of their funding.

There, Mr. Chairman, I believe that we need some more elements of information because otherwise I fear that we might have a very long line of applicants, some no name organizations and associations that we are not familiar with, that we know very little about, that we are certainly unaware of the financing. This is a very important point because I have read through the statutes of the Secure World Foundation and I saw three names and I do not know who the founders are, I do not know what the social presence ensured is in these organizations. I am very happy that our colleague from Canada who presented his foundation has, during his statement, given us some points.

These are general comments I am making, I believe that generally we should be more attentive to an in-depth examination of these candidacies. We must always remember, bear in mind these two principles which I have referred to, the representation issue and what the socio-economic connections are of these associations.

Since I have the floor, Mr. Chairman, we have to go into certain considerations which are not just formal but also substantive. We have some sort of potpourri of observers here and possibly we would do well to establish a scale, first the States, then the specialized organizations of the United Nations family, then other entities which are not yet State entities which are for example, the liberation movements, the Palestine Liberation Authority. What I have in mind is something of the sort that ITU does. Then another rank for associations, etc. etc. because, as concerns the specialized organizations, it is we, the States, being represented in this fashion so for me it is not acceptable that a United Nations specialized agency representative

as well as others should be up in the gallery whereas in other institutions they have a front row seat instead of being relegated to the back seats. It is not just a matter of protocol or formal point it is also a matter of examining the ranking of these observers.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much, Mr. Cassapoglou. On this last point of your statement, I would like to draw your attention to the list of participants of this session, which was provisionally distributed on Friday, which will be distributed in its final form. This list does make that distinction that you have referred to, first we have the member States, then we have the observer entities and to start off within that category we have the United Nations family bodies, then we have intergovernmental organizations which are not officially, legally part and parcel of the United Nations, then we have intergovernmental organizations which are regional, for example, ESA, and then at the end of this list we have non-governmental organizations. As for how they are seated in the room I would turn to the Secretariat to see whether they have any particular order for seating arrangements which would reflect these various categories I have just referred to.

I have Syria asking for the floor.

Mr. O. AMMAR (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation does support the application by the AOCRS and we support the granting of observer status in this Committee. The tasks and the work of this Organization is similar to the work of our Organization. This Organization is serious not only with regard to fortuity for countries in Africa but also to us in western Asia. We have good relations and we have had good cooperation with this Organization. We believe that the accession of this Organization to our Committee as observer will enhance the work of this Committee and will lead to more cooperation and coordination among all the States that I mentioned earlier. This is in consonance with the interests of this Committee so I believe the presence of this Organization as observer here is very important and essential. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished representative of Syria for your support to this candidacy of the African institute. I would now like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

Mr. D. EBIRERI (Nigeria): My delegation shows its appreciation for the way you have been conducting the affairs of this Committee but we intervene to support the application for observer status

by the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing. The work of the Organization is important to us, my country Nigeria. As you know, part of our country is in the Sahel region and we are faced by the threat of desertification. Apart from that the Organization is a modest arrangement by African countries to solve their problems and we believe that working in tandem with COPUOS to further enhance the ability to do its work, so Mr. Chairman, we would gladly support this application and wish that it is passed. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria for his support for the candidacy of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing. I would like to give the floor to my distinguished colleague from Burkina Faso.

Mr. R. FORO (Burkina Faso) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The delegation of Burkina Faso would like to extend its fullest support to the candidacy of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing to be permanent observer with the Committee. We are convinced that this membership would allow the Organization to equip the Committee with this Organization's know-how and will be vital to it in its work. Lastly, we would like to see close cooperation with this Organization, one of the offices of which is hosted by Burkina Faso. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Burkina Faso for his expression of support for the candidacy of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing and I would now like to give the floor to our colleague, the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

Ms. N. ORIHUELA-GUEVARA (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The delegation of Venezuela endorses the request from the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing. It brings together several countries and there is no good reason to leave them outside. We feel that this Organization meets the requirements for membership, however, we do share Greece's concern about the Secure World Foundation, for Venezuela too, it is important to have a little more information, not just on the financial participation but also the representativeness of this Organization. This is an Organization which seems to enjoy funding just from one country and it may not necessarily meet the

conditions required for it to have such status with the Committee. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I would like to thank the distinguished colleague, the representative of Venezuela for her statement. I would now like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Libya.

Mr. J. GLEDAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to join previous speakers which have declared themselves in support of this Organization as an observer in this Committee. This Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing coordinates work that is of interest to many States in fields of training in cartography and the use of space. It works in many fields like fighting desertification, drought, etc. My delegation believes that the accession of this Organization as an observer in this august Committee will enhance the performance of the Committee and will enhance also the performance of that Organization. Mr. Chairman I would repeat my support for the granting of the observer status of that Organization in our Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished representative of Libya and his expression of support for the candidacy of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing.

Any further requests for the floor on this item? Can I turn back to the representative of the Secure World Foundation to see if that representative would have any answers to the general questions put to them from the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. D. ALDWORTH (Secure World Foundation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Of course, we would like to respond. The Secure World Foundation is in fact a private family foundation. It is the Arsenault family who run a real estate company and have made more money than they ever thought possible during their lives and want to put that money towards peace in the world and specifically looking at where they think the best bang for their buck would be, so to speak. They think that space is an environment which can use a little bit of help. There are a lot of good ideas out there and a lot of initiatives not taking place because of lack of funding. This is an offer of help and an objective to provide a safe, secure and accessible space environment for all the world's countries in the future. Increasingly, we realize that space benefits have begun to affect everyone's lives, every day, all the time and in every country of the

world. Space-based benefits replace infrastructure that many developing countries do not have, to the provision of space-based tele-medicine, tele-education, Internet access, television access, telephone access, the list goes on. Space-based benefits have exerted a great levelling influence on the world over the past years and we would like to see that continue. We would like to see the benefits of space be assured for us and for our children and for future generations. That is the objective of the Secure World Foundation.

Possibly I can just say a word on what we were asking for. We are asking for observer status, this is not membership, we do not have any voting rights, we do not have any ability to make presentations in this venue unless asked to, we want to be available for any type of progressive space governance initiatives where we can help out. It seems to me that that is something that should be viewed in a positive way. We are non-political, both within the United States and within Canada, where I am from, this is an absolutely altruistic venture to help secure space for the future. That is probably about as much as I can say on the subject. We do look towards expanding our activities over the coming years as the Foundation's endowment gets larger and larger and we do, as I have already mentioned, have quite a long list of projects that we are now involved in and I do not think there is anyone here could look at any of the projects that I mentioned and say I am being disadvantaged, in fact, most people would say, hey, that is a good idea. I ask the Committee's forbearance in our request to be observers to the proceedings. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you, Sir, for those clarifications. Distinguished delegate of Greece, Mr. Cassapoglou.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Through your kind offices, I would like to thank the dear colleague from the Secure World Foundation for his more specific comments.

I have one query still to put to him, through you and that is that, in the context of the Office of Outer Space of the United Nations, there are several programmes specifically geared to supporting developing countries in their efforts to introduce space technologies and I do wonder why these _____ (*inaudible*) countries, as you say in Roman Latin law, that is those beneficiaries in other words, do not go through those programmes for development especially in developing countries, be it Africa or other parts of the world which, as we know, are indescribable situations and I do not know why they

cannot act independently therefore, especially if such associations or foundations come from great States. I am not sure what their legal system is pertaining to associations and foundations but we, in Greece, have the same sort of legislation as in France, that is, the civil code but there may be federations or confederations according to which these associations may use this second or third degree of representation in order to undertake their work. I do not have a problem with accepting the participation for observer status of this foundation but I still wonder about the actual use _____ (*inaudible*) in this case.

What are the results, what will be the benefits for COPUOS and through COPUOS for member States to derive and the United Nations in general at some point in time? Probably in the context of your report on the future of the Committee we will have to take another look at the system according to which we accept associations and foundations as observers. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Cassapoglou. Well as it happens this is not an association it is a foundation in this case which is under the American fiscal tax system. These are foundations which often have quite substantial financial resources, it is all related to the tax system, it is not quite as felicitous a situation in my country I hasten to add, but I am confident _____ (*inaudible*) might have something to say. I am certain that there is no objection at first blush to the Secure World Foundation being allowed sometimes to extend its support to the activities undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, at least I take it that is the situation. It is a question I put to you.

Did you hear my question?

I will repeat the question. Picking up on what the colleague from Greece said, I was wondering and I convey to you the question, whether it is something to be envisaged in certain specific cases which _____ (*inaudible*) to be determined, on a case-by-case basis, whether it has been envisaged that your foundation might be involved in the funding of some of the activities undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, that is, activities approved by the Committee?

Mr. D. ALDWORTH (Secure World Foundation): Yes, absolutely. I have had some preliminary discussions with officers of OOSA on that subject. I understand that the Director-General and the Secretary-General are interested in OOSA undertaking partnerships where they can, in particular, where it would enable them to stretch a very restrained budget

that they already have and this is exactly the type of opportunity that the Secure World Foundation would like to take advantage of. Providing perhaps money for experts where they might not otherwise be able to participate, providing money for travel expenses so that various COPUOS activities can get better update and representation on the part of experts that could help. As I mentioned, we are very interested in the concept of space governance which would mean the support of such activities as research into space traffic management, into further space debris studies etc. Whatever might result in a stability for space activities in the future, interests us and we would be very interested in providing our support if asked.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Sir for the answer which you provided to that question. I have a request for the floor from the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

Ms. N. ORIHUELA-GUEVARA (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The delegation of Venezuela positively views the readiness of the Secure World Foundation to provide its assistance, however, this is a political forum, it is a forum with official representation of all the countries which are members, where we come together to discuss major developments undertaken by States in the field of space research and activities. We think the good intentions of a group such as the Secure World Foundation, which is a completely private body and which is motivated purely by altruistic goals, we are sure it has different ways of channelling its support to benefit certain initiatives but it is not entirely clear that this foundation meets the requirements to be a permanent observer with this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished representative of Venezuela for her statement. Any further requests?

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have listened with great interest to the discussions on the matter of these three organizations and their request to be permanent observers in the Committee. What I want to recall is that, at our thirty-third session, we had decided, that is the Committee had decided, on criteria for becoming an observer in the Committee and, as near as I can tell, the criteria for becoming observer has been met by all three organizations. That criteria is attached to each of the applications from these organizations. I do not recall us ever asking the question of a potential observer of what they are going to give us, that is, we will let you in if you give us

some kind of, maybe, financial incentive. I do not recall us ever asking other observers, here in the Committee, that question and I am a bit concerned that we are now having these different levels of observer and, where it suits our purposes, we think that we should be asking the organizations, what are you going to give us if we let you become an observer. I am not objecting to that but I think then we should be asking that question of all of them, particularly the two other organizations that have also applied for observer status.

My only point is we have criteria that is attached, everyone can read that in Conference Room Papers 8, 9 and 10. If the organizations meet this criteria then it is a very simple decision but if we are going to start with new criteria for observer status then it is going to have to be evenly applied. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Hodgkins for your statement which recalls the criteria which had been laid down in 1990 for accepting permanent observers into the Committee. We have had a fairly comprehensive overview of the question, we now have to take a decision.

There is a further request from Greece. You have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Could I take the liberty of making some additional comments on the question asked by our distinguished colleague from the United States with respect to criteria. In my opinion, he is right from the formal standpoint and I would agree with him in that regard but on substantive matters I would like to say two things.

Firstly, the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing is an intergovernmental regional organization which has nothing to do with an association of private law be it an association in the strict sense of the term or a foundation. We must be very vigilant in this regard.

Secondly, it certainly was not my intention to say that to accept someone we must *stricto sensu* apply the maximum of give and take. We are just talking about eligibility criteria. If we have this Carnegie Institute, that is an international institute which has contributed enormously to mankind ever since 1902 or 1906. That is not a question, it is work, it is there for all to see.

As regards the candidate here, it is one we are not familiar with, it is the first time we have seen them

here and we have no evidence of its activities until now. It certainly has the most altruistic of intentions, as far as mankind is concerned, that is why I introduced a new criterion as regards the past, so to speak. When I was proposing or asking, what is your contribution going to be to the mission of the Office of Outer Space Affairs with respect to the development of space technology around the world and, I have to say with some shame, the under-developed world, because I do not like the term, then it is not a condition on the grounds of give and take, if you see what I mean, and I think my colleague from the United States understood what I meant very clearly. So that is the situation, we need to draw a distinction between foundations and associations on the one hand and intergovernmental organizations on the other, that is what I wanted to say and I am sorry perhaps for abusing your patience.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Cassapoglou for that clarification of your position. I have a request for the floor from China.

Mr. W. ZHANG (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the application of the Secure World Foundation for observer status, we have a question to ask. We would like to ask the Secretariat or this Foundation to clarify because, in accordance with CRP.10 in paragraph 2, we can see clearly that if a non-governmental organization wants to become an observer in our Committee then it has to be recognized by ECOSOC because later on in the documents provided by the Secure World Foundation, that is, in the letter submitted by the Secure World Foundation on 19 May, in paragraph 2 of the letter, it is mentioned that this Foundation is in the process of applying for observer status with ECOSOC. We do not know whether this process is already completed or not? Therefore there is still a matter of procedure to be clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of China and for the question you have put. I will possibly once again turn to the representative of the Secure World Foundation for clarification.

Mr. D. ALDWORTH (Secure World Foundation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question from the distinguished representative of China is quite appropriate. First of all the process, at the present time, for status as per CRP.19, is running at about two years so they have quite a delay in their processing of those applications. So, no, we do not have observer status with them at this point in time. I do understand,

however, that because of this long term in the application status, OOSA has taken the approach of accepting an intention to apply for that status as meeting the requirements of CRP.19 and you will see that the other applications that have been submitted, as well as the application that was approved last year, have a statement of intention to apply which we have included. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Director of OOSA would possibly confirm that.

Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA (Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is actually correct and, as we understand now, the ECOSOC does not have to grant observer status. We received a communication recently that indicated that, perhaps in the past, this was the way to proceed with the acceptance of permanent observers. Since the Committee reports to the General Assembly either the Committee itself would make the acceptance but more likely would make the recommendation to the General Assembly, so that the General Assembly would carry that out, as would happen with the case of the observer States that the Committee has agreed to recommend to the General Assembly. The process would be the same for the permanent observers as it is for States.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Camacho for this information that this condition is not as strict as we had thought. We do, nonetheless, have to reach a conclusion and as concerns the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing, I have noted that there has been widespread expression of support and I suggest that we should approve this, failing objection on the part of some delegations, we would approve the application for observer status with the Committee.

Thank you very much for your approval.

Then we have two other organizations of completely different status, the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, which is called the European Southern Hemisphere Observatory more commonly, has requested permanent observer status but unfortunately is not represented here today, which is disappointing, I daresay. When you request observer status you should turn up when there is a hearing of your application to explain the motivation of this application and no one has supported the candidature of this observer. I suggest that we re-examine this request next year.

I would also propose the same for the Secure World Foundation to be deferred to next year's meeting. I believe that Greece was saying something fairly interesting when he said that, if we had an historical sketch of cooperation between the Secure World Foundation and the Committee, we would probably be able to give the green light to this and I believe that these lacunae of information are being filled in positively. I believe that, one year down the road we will probably be able to hesitate much less, which deferral does not stand in the way of the cooperation of the Secure World Foundation with our Committee in the interim period.

I feel that there is a lack of a unanimous stand in the room on this matter. I note that the United States has requested the floor but I believe that it would be wise to conclude that we should defer this decision until next year and hope that in the interim period we would have a fuller dossier.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully appreciate the need to move on but I guess I am a bit perplexed. It is not quite clear to me that, on its face, the Secure World Foundation in fact cannot become an observer and I do not recall either the other criteria that the organizations that do apply for observer status have to have some track record.

I will give you a case in point. The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). We granted them observer status quite readily although IIASA did not have what I would have considered to be a long track record and, I will point out also, the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis has very little to do with space. We did take their word that there were things that they might be able to do with the Committee, I have yet to see them actually fulfil that, so I fully appreciate the need for us to be cautious about the granting of observer status but I do think we also have an obligation to treat those organizations that have come to us asking, in good faith, for consideration I think we should treat them fairly and we should treat them the way we have others in the past. With that, if we cannot reach consensus I do want to make it clear that our delegation sees no reason why we could not act on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you for your statement, Mr. Hodgkins. It is true that the discussion that we have just had demonstrates that there is a concern, possibly a novel concern, on the part of the Committee to not automatically give observer status and it may seem that the rules are somewhat being tightened up in

comparison with preceding years. This opens a question that will have to be dealt with, not at this session but at a following session, so I am turning to my successor who should mark this as requiring attention in the future, the rules applying to the granting of observer status. We have to know exactly what rules should be applied, also in those cases where observer status already granted has never been followed-up on by any activity. It is necessary to clarify the rules upon entry but also clarify the rules of possible exits which we do not have for the time being apparently. I believe that Colombia is requesting the floor.

Mr. C. ARÉVALO-YEPES (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you, Chairman. I rise to the challenge, what you have just said is extremely important not just to have very clear-cut criteria for entry but those criteria should be maintained over time as a constant expression of commitment to COPUOS' work in all its dimensions. We need to think in future about establishing, in addition to the criteria we already have, a criterion of permanence that you have mentioned quite eloquently and they need to be examined, these criteria, so that they are not just used so that membership in COPUOS becomes a sort of entry in a CV for an organization, whichever organization it is. I well understand your concern and I do think, in future, it is worthwhile thinking over this issue in a more thorough fashion. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of Colombia. I would now like to give the floor to the representative of the Secure World Foundation.

Mr. D. ALDWORTH (Secure World Foundation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand all the concerns that have been expressed. COPUOS is a Committee which is not only important now but will take on an increasing importance over the years as space-based applications continue to become important for the world in general.

However, I have a question. How can I state it? I do not know why this application has been deferred. I have to say that, from the statements that have been made so far in commenting, no one has said that we do not meet the criteria that the Committee has laid out with the exception of the Chinese observation that we may not have completed our ECOSOC application yet, which is correct. However, any organization needs to have its rules, needs to have its procedures, needs to have consensus on the way it does business and, at some point in time, about 15 years

ago, COPUOS debated their rules for observer status and achieved consensus on an approach which everyone has supported and has not been changed since then.

In good faith, the Secure World Foundation has looked at those rules and made an application based on the requirements as set out by the COPUOS membership. At this point in time, having complied with those rules, it seems to me that, there is a need to either, as you say, come up with new rules but, how can you do that retroactively, when we have already complied with the needs as laid out in the application for observer status. That has to be in any organization a guard against capriciousness that you cannot make up rules as you go along and maintain credibility. I do not want to turn this into a tirade but I must say that, if this application is deferred, it would seem to me that I have not had a reason for the deferral. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you for your statement. I would just like to recall that this Committee works on the basis of consensus. It is one of the basic rules for our Committee's work. When the Chairman feels that consensus has not emerged, he comes up with other solutions, that is the role of the Chairman. The consensus on the Secure World Foundation is something that has not been secured and I believe that is enough of a reason.

I will call upon the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

Ms. N. ORIHUELA-GUEVARA (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you, Chairman. Very briefly, the requirements are the condition for submitting a candidacy and the decision is taken in this room. Conditions exist prior to a candidacy being submitted prior to the discussion we have had today. There is no clash between what has happened in the past and what is happening now that is the decision of the Chair which as you have said requires a consensus. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I recognize the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): I have been pre-empted by you and by our distinguished colleague from Venezuela. I believe that there was a breach of procedure on behalf of the representative of the

candidacy. He proceeded to some, not critical comments but, comments addressing the legal substance and grounds for our decision and I believe that is something that is not at all acceptable.

We had a similar case, three or four years ago, when the representative of a scientific organization, it was a matter of a proposal made by a government and there were three points of criticism levied at what had just been said by the representative of a governmental entity, representative of a State and that we cannot allow. We cannot allow for any criticisms to be levied against our respective governments, we are sovereign States and our Chairman is doing his work most effectively, total observance of the rules and we cannot accept that sort of behaviour. If we were to accept that we would thereby be destroying the purely intergovernmental nature of this forum. States and private sector organizations have to play by this rule. I am sorry to be as worked up on this as I am but I really feel that we have to abide by the intergovernmental nature of this body so we just should have statements on the part of observers when we call upon them to speak. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the courage you have demonstrated in saying exactly what you have said. If the Chairman is under the impression that there would be, or is no, consensus, then everyone has to abide by the ruling of the Chairman. Sorry for being as peremptory in my tone as I am but I do believe that we have to make this point completely clear.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Cassapoglou for your statement. I believe that we have spent more time than we expected on this matter. Once again I would like to repeat the conclusions we have reached.

We have accepted with interest and enthusiasm the application for observer status of the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing and this is a proposal which is going to be sent to the General Assembly.

As for the other two candidacies that we have considered today are, for different sets of reasons, to be deferred.

This does not mean it is a negative decision, it means that we need more information to enable best decision-making to take place which, I hope, will be able to take place next year. In the interim period, through the Secretariat, we are going to be going into the reasons why we would prefer to have these matters re-examined, reconsidered next year and we hope that cooperation with these two organizations will take

place normally within the next 12 months. I would hope that this would enable us to wind up on this.

Mr. C. ARÉVALO-YEPES (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I agree with your conclusions, under no condition would I wish to change those conclusions in any way, however, on this point of deferring the decision on these two applications, I believe that since it is for different reasons that we are deferring, this is something we should certainly indicate.

The first of these organizations has not even sent a representative to speak on its behalf and I think that possibly we should just set that application aside, reasons of respect towards this organization. The second organization has sent a spokesperson who has made a valid case for that organization and we should take time to consider this case. I believe that there is a difference in the two cases and I would like this to be indicated.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Ambassador, you are quite right. The two cases are completely different.

In the first case, the organization in question has not even bothered turning up to speak. I believe that this is quite regrettable so we would say, for the time being, no we are not going to be granting you this status.

For the Secure World Foundation, yes, we certainly did have a complete presentation of the activities of this Foundation but the Committee was not unanimous on this decision. Some delegations expressed reservations so we decided to defer this until next year but we must certainly recognize that the representative of the Secure World Foundation did make the effort, not just to be present but, to answer all the questions that were put by various delegations. In the proceedings of the meeting we will certainly make this important distinction. Thank you very much Ambassador for your comments.

Since it is 5.25 p.m. we have only one technical presentation this evening. Possibly we could start on agenda item 11, space and water. There is just one request to speak on behalf of the United States, Mr. Higgins has asked for the floor.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, in view of the long debate that we have just gone through I would be quite willing to defer our statement on space and water until the agenda item is opened tomorrow. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Higgins. I note that you will be able to speak tomorrow morning.

Would there be any other delegations wishing to speak under agenda item 11?

I see none.

We will continue with our examination of item 11 tomorrow. We also had intended to possibly take up agenda item 12 but I see that no statement has been scheduled under that agenda item. There again we are going to have to put that back until tomorrow.

I suggest that we should conclude this session with the technical presentation which will be made by the representative of India, Mr. Radhakrishnan. He will be making a presentation under agenda item 12, entitled, use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development.

International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (agenda item 12)

Mr. K. RADHAKRISHNAN (India): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation is indeed privileged to make a presentation on this agenda item and this is a subject on which we were engaged for the last 20 years ever since the National Natural Resource Management System was in place. In fact we started with national natural resources information system, a GIS-based information database of both spatial and non-spatial data. We went through three phases.

The first phase ended in 1990, it was a conceptual phase where we did a study on what needs to be done nationally, what should be the architecture and we also decided that we must first prove it, through a set of pilot projects done from different parts of the country.

1990-2000 was essentially a phase where we started generating a database nationally and also we did more than 20 pilot studies whereby we got experience in the database creation, on the use of it and, we also ensured in this process that the resource managers from various parts of the country who were not exposed in this area, could use the system of information base to generate action plans for sustainable development of land and water resources. Essentially, the concept is we get resource characterization on the extent, state, spatial distribution on land, water, vegetation from the aerospacial data and field data together. We also have information on the various disasters that occur, for

example, floods, the areas affected by cyclone or drought and even tsunami, the impacts of climate change and we also have information on the vulnerability and mitigation. All this together, how does it get into the decision support system that is used by the persons at various levels in government and non-governmental institutions. _____ (*inaudible*) knowledge to this system is the products of the application programmes that we have taken up in various sectors.

The third phase, of what I wanted to say, is the Natural Resource Census and Natural Resources Repository, that we took up in 2000, especially the availability of the resource _____ (*inaudible*) satellite data where we could get three regimes of data. One, data of medium resolution at very high repetitivity rates, once in five days. Second, was the high resolution multi-spectral data of 5.8 meter resolution and a resolution in between, which was sufficient for getting the databases generated at the scales required for planning and even action plans.

We coined this name Natural Resources Census to show that it needs periodic, systematic creation and updating and the Natural Resources Repository is the one where you put all these together and make it available for the people through a proper dissemination system.

A very important aspect of it is, how do we generate action plans for the decision support systems and also outreach all over the country to various agencies. This would finally get into the sustainable development of land, water and environment. The various _____ (*inaudible*) required for this are in place. We have a system for aerospace data acquisition and processing and what you need to have in this process is to have the proper image standards, which we have today, especially when you talk about inter-comparison of data of different sensors, different times. It is also essential that the maps are prepared by several organizations and you need to have geospatial thematic data standards, that too is in place.

We must have a system for creation of geospatial database and that comes through various application projects which I shall dwell upon after a few minutes and the data organization with the natural resources database, a system for data dissemination. There are two parts of it, one is to have a meta data of all thematic information available in the country and a proper network of reaching _____ (*inaudible*) people at various levels. The last one, the knowledge base available with the various sectoral agencies, decision-

makers, how does it get into for generating the final products, advisories, information products.

Without explaining the detail, there are several organizations in the country who have been mandated with the generation of information at various levels and this would be so in many other countries. The Survey of India, Geological Survey of India, NRSA, Forest Survey of India, Ground Water Board, Soil Survey Organization, Central Water Commission, the Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, the Ministry of Environment and Forests who worry about the forests in the country, the Meteorology Department, Hydrographic Department, the Ocean Development, Surface Transport, etc. and the State Governments who are actually the managers of the resources.

What we have developed in the country is a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NDSI) combining all these information sources and providing the meta data and this has been settled, during May 2006, through an act of parliament.

We talked about the standards, under the NNRMS system we derived the standards in 2005, in fact, there is a national spatial framework up to the scale of 1:10,000 inch, we have the standards for the image, the mapping standards and the GIS database, especially we talked about the projection-free system, use of delivery standards and multiple formats and also when we talk about thematic mapping, the Natural Resources Repository, what are the layers and their attribute schemas, the process standard of generating it, the GIS database design standard and, more importantly, when you talk about the local level decision-making one has to _____ (*inaudible*) with the cadastral references and we also have a referencing scheme which is being generated along with the image maps and finally, most importantly, it is the accuracy and the QA standards _____ (*inaudible*) for all these maps that is the essential part of this system.

This is a typical study, the Natural Resources Census which we took up in 2004-2005. This talks about essentially seven themes on which data is _____ (*inaudible*) for the entire country and there are various organizations which are given the responsibility for generating this. One of those is the land use/land cover for the whole country using the Advanced Wide Field Sensor of _____ (*inaudible*). We generate for every year the land use/land cover statistics, using the temporal dimension that is available through this and we have already completed two, the third one is in progress, and we are also

developing a 1:50,000 inch scale for the entire country using the LISS-III based on NNRMS standards.

Soil mapping has been a difficult job especially using remote sensing data but there are ways in which one can combine the ground information and the _____ (*inaudible*) that you get out of the remote sensing data and this is being done by the Ministry of Agriculture. First one, _____ (*inaudible*) soil maps that we have generated so far are being updated and wherever it is not covered the new area we are generating the soil maps.

The same thing happens on the land degradation, it is far more difficult, that is also being done with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Space.

Geomorphological mapping is another important task. We have done this for most of the country where we have used this _____ (*inaudible*) groundwater _____ (*inaudible*) maps. This is being updated with the common standards and being put on the system.

Vegetation cover mapping. We go through the forest cover mapping, once in two years at the moment, that is being improved with high resolution and the Forest Survey of India is responsible for this.

Wetland mapping and surface water bodies another area where the Ministry of Environment and Forest is engaged and also we have the snow and glacier mapping especially for the Himalayan regions.

These are part of the Natural Resources Census. There is periodicity for this as well. As the geomorphological mapping and soil mapping are concerned, we do it once in ten years whereas the rest of it are done once in five years.

This is a typical system for the land use/land cover. We have done at 1:250,000 inch scale that is once a year and 1:50,000 inch for the entire country and there are details on what is coming out of it. One information which is coming out is the net sown area for different cropping seasons, at the end of December for the whole year.

This is a project which we took of wasteland mapping in fact it was 1986 to 2000 at different times but, in 2003, we decided to have a classification system of 28 categories, we did it with 2003 _____ (*inaudible*) data that is being repeated _____ (*inaudible*) 2006, so in three years whatever change is taking place in the area, that is being precisely monitored spatially and

this information is available on the website for the users to make use of it, especially when rural development schemes are coming out this becomes one of the major database.

Land degradation process, in fact, many parts of our country, 146 million hectares of the country, the large portion is degraded due to several reasons, water logging, salinity, soil erosion and the vegetation cover is degraded. We have a _____ (*inaudible*) level map but today using remote sensing we are generating this on 1:50,000 inch scale and this is a very major national project which has been launched very recently.

Soil mapping _____ (*inaudible*) to the whole process where you have ground samples and also use satellite remote sensing data. Once a soil map is available that is used for deriving several derived maps like land capability, land suitability and what is the characterization and prioritization etc.

The landscape level characterization of biodiversity is something that we took up about 10 years back, a lot of research and development is involved in this and, at landscape level, with the use of remote sensing data, we generate several indices. We also have a larger collection of ground information taken by teams deployed all over the country and I am very happy to say, 80 per cent of the forest area is already covered and we have it on the website, that is the biodiversity information system. The remaining 20 per cent of the area is being presently covered and this information is used by the State Governments to generate a lot of forestation plans at the moment.

Irrigated command area monitoring, I talked about it yesterday but, the point is, large amount of the country we have today with database which is being updated periodically. An important thing that came up over the last two years in the country is on the generation of National Database for Emergency Management, essentially to look at 27 types of natural disasters and man-made emergencies. The crux of it is the generation of multi-level geospatial data, one at 1:50,000 inch scale for the entire country, then 1:10,000 inch scale for 169 multi-hazard prone districts coming from 17 States and 1:2,000 inch for five mega cities.

One of the different layers to be put into this, who are the agencies who will contribute. Everything has been decided and we are setting up the State as part of a governmental decision at Hyderabad, _____ (*inaudible*) in a secure environment, secured level of communication which _____ (*inaudible*) all those who are supposed to feed the information to each

and all those who are supposed to receive the advisories in the event of disasters. This year is going to be improving the disaster preparedness in the country.

This is a typical schema for the Natural Resources Repository, on one side you have the natural resource creation for which several projects have been generated. I talked about Natural Resources Census, then we have a large-scale mapping project, especially with the availability of CARTOSAT-2 data and earlier with the availability of _____ (*inaudible*). We have generated for the various cities and towns, information on 1:10,000 inch scale which is being used for the urban information system and, as I talked about the cadastral land information system, it is a major project which is taking place in the country where you need to have 1:4,000 inch scale, mass-generated, which can be used for referencing with the databases. You may not get the vector areas equal to what is on the ground which _____ (*inaudible*) ground surveys but this gives a quick way of land information system generation whenever required.

Several projects whatever we do they are also done for the standards as defined by the NNRM standards and that data gets into the Natural Resource database where we have a master server in _____ (*inaudible*) and two of these _____ (*inaudible*) that we have through the _____ (*inaudible*) system, the regional servers are put in various institutions in the country.

Today we have NNRMS portal, which aids you through various natural resources databases and it has a system which is hosted at _____ (*inaudible*) and you can get into the system, this is a typical page that we have, www.nnrms.gov.in.

This is a typical example of the cadastral database, in fact a cadastral map does not have a projection system, the best that we can do is to correlate between the image features and the _____ (*inaudible*) available on the cadastral base and check it on the ground.

How this is being used? Last year we have assembled this _____ (*inaudible*) example, how such high resolution images and databases are used by the local community for arriving at plans on micro watersheds of 500 hectares to 1,000 hectares area.

This is another concept, which again we presented the Village Resource Centres, where the people in an area are able to get information of their

land use which could be used for many planning including the _____ (*inaudible*) agriculture.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, what I would like say is, India has demonstrated the capabilities of generation and utilization of space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development. There is a national effort to create a single window system for geospatial data, efforts are in progress to use geospatial data for several newer applications, applying advanced technologies and dedicated missions for specific and critical thematic information are also being planned for societal benefits and this is purely a national task.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank our distinguished colleague the representative of India for his very comprehensive presentation. The way in which geospatial technologies are used in his country particularly with respect to water resources of India.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? I do not think that is the case.

Does anybody wish to ask any questions of the distinguished representative of India?

I see none.

We are going adjourn this session. I shall adjourn in the near future, I just want to remind you of tomorrow's agenda. We will reconvene promptly at 10 a.m. At that time we will continue our consideration of agenda item 7, report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its forty-fourth session. Item 10, space and society, item 11, space and water, item 12, use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development and, time permitting, we shall continue item 13, other matters. At the end of tomorrow morning's meeting we shall be listening to three technical presentations to be made by the representatives of India, Japan and Colombia.

Are there any questions on this schedule. If there are none, then I would like to remind you, that heads of delegations, are invited by the Austrian delegation to attend the Heurige function this evening, starting at 7.30 p.m. and I hope you have all taken on board the instructions which will allow you to reach the venue of that Heurige.

You have the floor, Austria.

Thank you Chairman, for instructions needed on how to get there by public transport, there are two more copies available here. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): This afternoon's meeting is adjourned.

The meeting closed at 5.46 p.m.