United Nations COPUOS/T.583

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Unedited transcript

583rd Meeting
Wednesday, 11 June 2008, 3 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Ciro Arévalo-Yepes (Colombia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.11 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Good afternoon. We are going to start the 583rd meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

We have waited a little because the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had had a meeting and we are going to be punctual the way we were this morning. This afternoon we will continue consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, and 7, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

Following the plenary there will be a Reception, as I already announced this morning. It will take place at 6.00 p.m. in the Mozart Room of the Vienna International Centre Restaurant.

I would also like to inform delegates of the exhibitions that are being held in the Rotunda for the duration of the Committee's session. As one enters the building, the first exhibition, and it will be held throughout the Committee's session, is in celebration of the International Year of Planet Earth 2008, which was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly.

On this occasion, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has prepared, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Year of Planet Earth, and with Geospace International, an exhibition of posters throughout the month of June on how space technology contributes to the observation, monitoring and protection of the Earth's environment.

The three themes on display are Space and Archaeology, Space and Forestry, and Space and Water.

The second exhibition, which we will also get a chance to see, is about Japan's lunar probe, KAGUA(?). That exhibits includes a documentary film on the mission, as well as high-definition images taken by the probe. Delegates are cordially invited to visit both of these exhibitions, it goes without saying, and once again, they held in the Rotunda on the Ground Floor, hard to miss.

General exchange of views (agenda item 5)

Now, distinguished delegates, I would like to continue our consideration of item 5, General Exchange of Views.

In our consideration of this agenda item, the first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of India, Mr. Madhavan Nair. Mr. Nair, you have the floor.

Mr. M. NAIR (India): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Indian delegation is pleased to see you, Mr. Ambassador, in the Chair, guiding the deliberations of the fifty-first session of COPUOS. We express our hearty congratulations to you on being elected as the new Chairman of COPUOS for the year 2008-2009. We are confident that your long-term association with the United Nations fora and able leadership qualities, will lead to substantial progress in this Committee.

V.08-54821 (E)

We also take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Ms. Mazlan Othman as the new Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, with vast experience in the United Nations COPUOS. We are sure that the new Bureau, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, will contribute significantly to the progress of the matters related to the agenda items identified in this session.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation places on record its sincere appreciation to Mr. Gérard Brachet of France for his excellent contribution during the last two years as the Chairman of the United Nations COPUOS. We are happy that under his chairmanship, some of the very significant achievements have been made by the Committee.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the outgoing First Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman for their excellent contributions to the United Nations COPUOS Committee.

Mr. Chairman, we are meeting in the aftermath of the devastating cyclone and earthquake that struck Myanmar and China, respectively, in the recent times. The disasters caused a great loss of life and property. India conveys its deepest condolence to the people of Myanmar and China who are devastated by these unimaginable disasters.

We would like to inform the Committee that Indian remote sensing imagery and other support services were made available for the post-disaster relief operation. As a member of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, ISRO took very active part in the activities of the Charter in providing the required(?) remote sensing data and assessment support to the countries concerned.

Mr. Chairman, the recent disasters that struck Myanmar and China would have provided an opportunity to activate the UNSPIDER. We are sure that the information and experience of this kind would help everyone to better understand the modalities and improve its effectiveness in the future towards disaster mitigation. The Office for Outer Space Affairs would like to provide the information to this forum so as to encourage many other countries to contribute significantly towards SPIDER in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman, the effective utilization of space systems for mass(?) development is the primary importance to all developing countries, conceiving specific application programmes to address the societal problems at the grassroots level. These are of utmost importance. Even with the tremendous advancement taking place in space applications, there are many countries that still lack the necessary space-based resources and information because of its high cost. Towards this, every effort should be made by developed and developing countries who already possess the necessary space-based resources, to share this information with countries in need in a more cost-effective and affordable manner.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation would like to congratulate the United States of America on the successful launch and landing of their Phoenix Mars Lander Probe. We are sure in the coming months the wealth of technological and scientific data on the origins of the Red Planet will greatly enrich the scientific community.

Mr. Chairman, let me briefly present to this Committee the significant achievements made by India in the space field since the last meeting.

In September 2007, India' geosynchronized satellite launch vehicle, GSLV-F04, successfully launched the latest communications satellite INSAT-OCR from the Savistawan(?) Space Centre _____(?) *(not clear)*. The launch of GSLV-F04 was the fifth flight in the ISRO(?) series. INSAT-OCR is a communications satellite carrying 12 high-powered Ku-Band transponders and was designed to provide direct home television services radio-picture transmission, the digital satellite newsgathering and several other users for the VSAT(?) community.

During January 2008, the Indian polar satellite launch vehicle successfully launched the dedicated commercial satellite for international customers in the lower Earth-orbit.

More recently, in April 2008, 10 satellites consisting of two national satellites, namely the CAPOSATS(?) and the Indian mini-satellites and eight nano-satellites for the international customers, namely NLS4, the first of six satellites, and another five and _____(?)-8 was successfully carried onboard with KCT(?)-9 in a single mission.

The primary satellite KAPASATUNYAY(?) is a state-of-the-art remote sensing satellite. The data from this satellite will be used for detailed mapping applications at character(?) level and _____(?) in _____ *(not clear)* development and management.

Along with the KAPASATUNYAY(?), the Indian mini-satellite launched on KCT-9(?), which

incorporated many new miniaturized technologies and powered images in hyper-spectral and multi-spectral band, India would like to share the data from the IMS-1 with other developing countries on a cooperative basis. The launch of KCT(?)-9 was the twelfth considerably successful flight of KSLE(?).

Mr. Chairman, in the area of space applications for national development, many programmes were practified(?) and have forwarded very valuable inputs to the nation. In our effort to provide support to quality education across the country, more than 33,000 classrooms have been connected to EDUSAT. The tele-education network have benefited a majority of students from schools, colleges, teachers, _____(?) and training education.

Towards providing the expert medical consultancy available in cities to the patients in the remote and inaccessible areas, the tele-medicine network is being expanded. Today, ISRO's tele-medicine network consists of 320 hospitals of which 270 hospitals are in the remote, rural and inaccessible areas and eight mobile bands connected to 42 super-special day hospitals located in major cities. More than 400,000 people have been benefited by this so far.

Mr. Chairman, the concept of the Village Resource Centre undertaken by ISRO towards providing the space-enabled services for societal benefits has proved to be very a successful and effective tool. It has acted as a single window delivery mechanism for a variety of space-based products and services, such as tele-education, tele-medicine, information on natural resources or planning and development at local level, _____(?) on agriculture, fisheries, land and water resource management, livestock management, etc.

Today, more than 400 Village Resource Centres have been established across the country providing valuable inputs to the local community and helping them in addressing a variety of social problems. The number is likely to go to about 500 by the end of the year. We consider that this concept of the Village Resource Centres is quite an appropriate application for other developing countries too.

Mr. Chairman, a very important segment of space-related activities has been the thrust towards international cooperation. We continue to cooperate with a number of space-faring nations and space agencies which has made possible ISRO entering into several bilateral and multilateral agreements with a number of countries.

On 12 November 2007, the Indian Space Research Organization and Russia's Federal Space Agency signed an Agreement on Joint Lunar Research and Exploration. This cooperation envisages the CHANDRIAN(?)-2, a joined lunar mission involving orbital spacecraft and a lander rover on the Moon's surface.

Towards the Sentinel-Asia Project *in situ*, it is conceived under the aegis of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF. ISRO will be participating towards this initiative by way of contributing in all three modes. This includes the data provider, the trainer, the capacity-builder and the user modes.

The recent launch of the KCT(?)-9 that carried the eight nano-satellites belonging to the universities from Canada, Japan, Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany, is a very good example of how the international student community can be increased by providing them with a very affordable access to space.

In the coming years, we are also planning to provide many such launch opportunities on Indian launchers for the students that decide to come in space, especially from the developing countries, as part of international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, India's first unmanned scientific mission to the Moon, CHANDRIAN(?)-1, planned for launch during this year, is another shining example of how interested scientists from various countries can effectively work together by sharing their advice in their relevant areas for the benefit of the humankind.

The CHANDRIAN-1 Mission, in addition to the Indian Scientific Instrument, will also carry a number of scientific instruments belonging to the United States of America, the European Space Agency and Bulgaria. We are sure that the successful launch of CHANDRIAN-1, the scientific and technological data generated on the _____(?) of the Moon, will greatly benefit the scientists across the world.

We would like to inform the Committee that, as part of Indo-French cooperation, ISRO and CNES is jointly building a satellite named MEGATROPICS, primarily carry out meteorological observations in the tropical region. Though a number of satellites meant for meteorological applications exist in the geosychronet(?) and low-Earth orbit, MEGATROPICS is a low-inclination, low-Earth orbit and will capture high-temporal and spatial resolution data that is necessary to observe tropical and _____(?)

system. The satellite will have sensors to measure the sea's temperature, cloudiness, surface wind, water vapour and liquid water content. The launch of MEGATROPICS is scheduled through 2009. We are sure that the data generated from the satellite will play a significant role in awarding global databank towards addressing the issues related to weather monitoring, prediction and, most importantly, the climate change, which, in the present day context, is of high relevance. In this context, I am sure, and tend to create a comprehensive database on space-based observations, will help in further research on global warming and climate change.

Towards furthering international cooperation, Amp_____(?) Corporation, a commercial arm of the Department of Trade, along with EADS _____(?) of Europe, are jointly building commercial communications satellites are(?) leaving(?) European satellite operators.

Mr. Chairman, during 24-27 September 2007, India had the opportunity to host the Fifty-Eight International Astronautical Congress in Hyderabad, under the umbrella of the International Astronautical Federation, the National Academy of Astronautics and the International Institute of Space Law. Being the fiftieth year of the Space Age, especially when befitting the occasion were organized. The Congress received very widespread participation, both from the national and international scientific community.

India also hosted the Seventeenth UNIA(?) Workshop which was held at the National Remote Sensing Agency in Hyderabad during September 2007. The Workshop was co-sponsored by the European Space Agency. Delegates of this Workshop held intense deliberations on the role of space technology in implementing sustainable development programmes in developing countries with a focus on food security.

The second meeting of the International Community on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, ICG, was also held in Bangalore, during 4-7 September 2007, to discuss on the points related to promoting the enhancement of universal access to space-based navigation and positioning systems, as well as their compatibility and inter-operability.

Subsequently, during 21-23 November 2007, the Fourteenth Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF-14, and a Workshop was held in Bangalore, India. ISRO was the co-sponsoring Agency, in association with JAXA for this important event.

Mr. Chairman, ISRO takes special interest in capacity-building and services for enabling the developing countries in the application of space technology. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the Asia-Pacific Region, affiliated to the United Nations, and operating from India, is an initiative in this direction. The Centre has so far conducted 26 post-graduate programmes with a duration of nine months. In addition, it organized 19 short-term courses, workshops, etc. So far, 720 scholars from 30 countries from the Asia-Pacific region and 20 scholars from 16 countries outside the Asia-Pacific region, have benefited from the educational activities of the Centre.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to reiterate its commitment to the use of outer space for peaceful purposes in the common interest of humankind.

We would like to inform the Committee that there are plans to make available from recently launched Indian mini-satellites, IMS-1, to interested space agencies and student community, especially from developing countries, to provide necessary _____(?) to capacity-building in using satellite data.

The Indian delegation is of the view that in the coming years, international cooperation in the space arena should get further _____(?), especially providing better benefits to developing countries.

We look forward to a very fruitful and participative deliberations during this session. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: I would like to thank Mr. Nair representing India and his warm words addressed to me and members of the Bureau and the Office. Thank you very much.

I would now like to call upon Mr. Tedjasukmana of Indonesia. You have the floor.

Mr. B. S. TEDJASUKMANA (Indonesia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Committee. My delegation is convinced that your able leadership will successfully carry this Committee through this session. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Mazlan Othman in her new role as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

My delegation commends the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and all parties involved in supporting and carrying out the work of the Committee which, in turn, facilitates our consideration of the issues of concern.

Mr. Chairman, as has been stated on many previous occasions, my delegation wishes to reiterate Indonesia's positions that in accordance with the principle expressed in the space treaties, outer space should be used entirely for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humankind. In this context, the agenda item on maintaining outer space for peaceful uses should be considered seriously.

In accordance with the General Assembly resolution number 8/?/60/99/2008, particularly paragraph 39, the deliberation of this item in our current session is a matter of high priority. This shows that greater attention is being paid to this matter and we hope that international cooperation in using outer space for peaceful purposes will be strengthened.

In that connection, we continue to support the work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in strengthening inter-agency coordination and cooperation, including through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. In order to meet international cooperation sustainable, the capacity-building of countries, particularly developing countries, in space technology and its applications, should be considered as a priority matter.

With regard to the reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and the Legal Subcommittee, my delegation notes with satisfaction that both Subcommittees made progress in the deliberations of issues in line with their mandates. It is my dearest(?) hope that the distinguished delegates in this session will use the statement(?) of the Subcommittees as they continue to _____(?) negotiations towards mutually acceptable solutions.

In particular, we stress the importance of making progress towards sorting the issues surrounding the definition and delimitation of outer space in the context of clarifying a boundary of air and outer space in order to contribute to the legal certainty in the implementation of space law and air law.

As to the utilization of the GSO, it is our firm view that in light of its _____(?) characteristics, equitable access to the geostationary orbit should be guaranteed for all States(?), taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries as well as the geographical position of certain countries.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you, the Committee, that in early 2007, Indonesia has flown its first _____(?) experimental satellite, namely LAPANDUSAK(?). The satellite now is operating to the _____ *(not clear).* It is only a small satellite. However, we are confident that this small step will pave the way for much bigger steps in the future. It will be dedicated for the prosperity of our people.

Mr. Chairman, on the subject of space-system-based information(?) support, Indonesia to continues to support the activities undertaken under the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, UNSPIDER. In the Asia-Pacific region, one of the concrete actions under the Sentinel-Asia Project in establishing the disaster management support system, we shall soon activate the data provider north(?). This will support the set-up of the automotive and real time data distribution through the regional network.

Mr. Chairman, Indonesia has observed an increase in the occurring of flooding and other water coast disasters in many parts of the world, particularly in the developing countries. In other courageous(?) countries, the availability to water coast natural disasters and to mitigate their occurrence, Indonesia, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, will next work host the Regional Workshop on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Water Resource Management, Environmental Protection and Disaster for _____(?) mitigation from 7-11 July 2008 in Jakarta. This Workshop will focus on using space technologies to include water and environmental management and to reduce natural disasters such as floods, drought, climate change, coasts, water-related disasters, deforestation, forest fires and to optimize planned use, while my Government is closely cooperating with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affair in ensuring the successful organization of the Workshop. We invite delegations to attend and to contribute to the fruitful outcome of this Workshop.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, let me on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, reiterate our firm commitment and support of this

Committee in achieving our common goals. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Thank you very much representative of Indonesia for your kind words and the Chair as well as to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in general. Thank you.

It is now my pleasure to give the representative of the Czech Republic the floor.

Mr. P. LÁLA (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is the first time our delegation is taking the floor at this session so we would like to express how ready we are to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Committee. Your long-term active participation in the work of our Committee, particularly in questions in relation to the use of space science and technology for the benefit of developing countries, gives us assurance that under your able leadership, there will be further progress in most items of our agenda.

We also welcome the First Vice-Chairman, Suvit Vibulsresth of Thailand, and Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur, Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal.

At the same time our delegation appreciates the exceptional work accomplished by previous presidium skilfully led by Gérard Brachet of France.

It is also a great pleasure to have Dr. Mazlan Othman back again in her function as the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Her extensive experience in regional and international cooperation is a guarantee that the support of the Secretariat will be even more effective than before.

We would also like to welcome the new members of our Committee, Bolivia and Switzerland.

Our delegation conveys our deepest condolences to the victims of the recent flooding in Myanmar and the earthquake in China. We hope that in future our activities will continue to improve the situation in such places.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, let me briefly inform you on recent developments in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space in the Czech Republic.

In November 2004, the main engine of space-related activities is either planned for European Cooperating States and the PAX(?) Charter specifies activities so that the Czech Republic can participate and ESA research industry projects.

At the beginning, 11 proposals were selected by ESA but last year the number of projects increased to 22. The yearly spending of 1.7 Everall(?) in 2007 is expected to exceed 5.9 million Euro in 2009.

Specific experience with the PAX Programme, provided a good starting point for negotiations about full membership of the Czech Republic in ESA. An official request for membership was submitted by the Czech Republic on 9 January 2007.

In the framework of negotiations, the validation process of the Czech space industry started in October 2007. Among 29 companies, there were 19 industrial, seven for services and software, and three research institutions. The results of the validation process are very positive. The signature of the Agreement on the Accession of the Czech Republic to the ESA Convention is expected in July in Prague and the ratification process of Alpha-Raymond(?) could be finished by the end of this year. If all goes well, therefore, the Czech Republic could join ESA as its eighteenth member State on 1 January 2009.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Czech Republic as a member State of the European Union, also participated in space-related activities of the European Commission. The most important joint initiative undertaken by the European Commission and ESA is our very own satellite navigation system.

Recently our Government is seriously offering to host the newly-established European Galileo(?) Supervisory Authority, GSA, in Prague. They are convinced that Prague could be the best location, given its excellent infrastructure and achievements of the Czech Republic in the field of space research and technology.

During the Fifty-Eighth International Astronautical Congress in Hyderabad in India, the proposal of the Czech Republic to hold the Regular Congress in 2010 in Prague was accepted. This will be a great opportunity to host more than 2,000 topmost(?) experts from around the world and present our scientific and industry activities.

As usual, the Congress Programme also includes space exhibitions. There are many large and small exhibitors. It will be a pleasure to meet as many of you at this opportunity in Prague in autumn 2010

Mr. Chairman, our delegation intends to present its views on other items of the agenda in additional statements at the appropriate time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Thank you very much Mr. Lála and thank you for the kind words that you addressed to me and the Secretariat and, of course, to my predecessor, Mr. Brachet, who indeed has done excellent work.

I would now like to give the floor to the delegation of France. You have the floor Mr. Guétaz.

Mr. S. GUÉTAZ (France) *(interpretation from French)*: Chairman, please allow my delegation to congratulate upon your election to the Chair of this Committee. Indeed, your great experience in space activities will contribute to our success in this Committee this year. Your presence here in our midst is a sign that the Colombian authorities are particularly interested in the development of space activities and that we are very satisfied to note. Our delegation is going to be contributing to our work together in a constructive fashion indeed.

My delegation would also like to thank President Brachet for the excellent work that he has indeed performed at the head of this Committee for two years now. Indubitably, the initiatives taken to revitalize the Outer Space Committee will be crowned a success.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairmen of the Scientific and Technical (and Legal?) Subcommittee, Mr. Kicher(?) and Mr. Kopal for the way in which that they have ensured progress on those two fronts in our work in the course of past year.

As you know, France is basing its space policy on three major principles, free access for all to space for peaceful uses, the preservation of orbiting satellite security, and taking on board the legitimate defence interests of States. These are the principles guiding France's action within the Outer Space Committee and within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as well. The peaceful use of outer space remains for France, just as for the EU as a whole, an essential component of international security.

As from 1 July next, France, as President of the European Union, is going to be exercising particular responsibility, given our role in the European space field. The European Union must continue to confirm its role as a full-fledged space follower. It must do this because it can conduct useful projects, useful for all Europeans, and inaccessible(?) to isolating national budgets(?) in outer space.

In pursuit of the resolution relating to European space policy, as adopted by the Fourth Space Council, dated 22 May 2007, France is going to be doing its utmost during this Presidency to allow for the consolidation of the progress achieved during the two emblematic programmes implemented by the European Union, Galileo for radio nav and GMES.

During his visit to Kourou(?) in Guyana last 11 February, the President of the Republic, Mr. Sarkozy, determined several goals for the French Presidency on the basis of the four major programmes which can structure the EU's Space Policy, geo-positioning, climate change, Earth observation, space security and solar system exploration.

Firstly, with Galileo, geo-positioning is indeed a major project. It is going to be contributing services which are exceptional for all Europeans, as well as other countries as well, because it is going to be enabling the high position positioning, very reliable positioning and air nav for automobile driving, various humanitarian and civil security applications are going to be able to have recourse to a nav system which will be highly and reputably reliable.

So for the French Presidency, this will be implemented with the political agreement of the Council on Transport of November 2007, on the basis of the regulations adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in April 2008 in order to ensure the deployment of the Togo(?) System.

Secondly, ambitious space achievements are indispensable for the understanding of mechanisms which are governing climate change. This work will enable the international community to ensure that all the action taken will be effective and properly monitored.

For Earth observation, this also is marked by major advances in the GNES Project. This project will enable the conversion into new services of all the space observations that we have for civil defence, risk management, management of the agriculture and forest heritage. And during the French Presidency, we will have to adopt governance structures and financing mechanisms for the project enabling the continuity of terrestrial and spatial infrastructures and the guarantee of continued services. This must come to bolster the competitiveness and knowledge that are in Europe.

Thirdly, on space and security, the EU could launch initiatives enabling development of space capacity contributing to the security of Europe and reinforce the security and integrity of space infrastructures that the EU would become a proprietor of.

Fourthly, as concerns exploration of the solar system, the European Union could give thought to the framework within which a dialogue could develop with other space powers in order to organize the global exploratory effort.

Chairman, it is with satisfaction that France notes the sound results registered during our work in the forty-fifth Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the forty-seventh Legal Subcommittee.

Firstly, the purely(?) Annual Programme on Energy Sources in Outer Space is continuing. It is the result of a partnership between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the IAEA and this can indeed facilitate the synergies which are indispensable if all of the conditions they too are indeed identified.

The Joint Group of Experts in the Working Group of the Subcommittee have met several times and several delegations were particularly active in this field. France would like to confirm here its wish to see reviewed the principles which guide the utilization of nuclear energy in space.

As concerns the SPIDER Platform, this for the grouping of space resources for disaster management and emergency action, France would like to start off by thanking all of the countries which so far have committed their efforts, in particular China and Germany. We are following very attentively the Plan of Implementation managed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and we hope that SPIDER would be able to coordinate with the tools and organization that already exists, in particular with UNOSAT in Geneva.

On space debris, France would like to note with satisfaction that the General Assembly has approved the Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on Space Debris Reduction. As you know, some member States have already taken measures to reduce space debris. CNES is applying the Code of Conduct on Space Debris to all its projects and you will have noted last February the summary presentation made during the Second European Workshop on End-of-Life Decommission of Geostationary Satellites. Depending on the practices of orbiting and technological developments, of course we have to be ready to update these Guidelines which are going to be followed by the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee on Space Debris very closely.

Chairman, when he visited Kourou(?), Guyana, last 11 February, the President of the French Republic, Mr. Sarkozy, expressed his will to promote the security of space activities by voluntary conscience and transparency measures which are acceptable by as many States as possible. Such conscience and transparency measures can be easily implemented and contribute to securitizing the international outer space environment by making more transparent and thereby reinforcing the trust among the space players.

Along the lines of this work, the French delegation is happy that within the EU a text, a proposal is being prepared for a Code of Conduct on Outer Space Activities which is non-binding. We hope that we will be able to speak about this again when we get to agenda item 14. This Code of Conduct is complementary to the efforts made by Chairman Brachet.

During the forty-ninth session, it was decided to entrust the Chairman of our Committee to conduct consultations to develop a document on the role and future activities of this Committee. This initiative resulted in setting up an informal Working Group on the issue of long-term viability of outer space activities during a meeting which was held in Paris, 7-8 February last. The Chairman of our Committee came to present during the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee the thrusts of approaches(?) that he intended to suggest. The French delegation would like to take note with satisfaction this initiative and hope that the work done by the informal group can be reviewed and considered in due course by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Chairman, if I might, I would like to refer to the main outer space activities of France for the past year.

To start off, I would like to especially …

(Tape 6 – No English interpretation) …

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: *(No English interpretation)*

Mr. M. D. SUBARI (Malaysia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to join the other member States expressing our delegation's great pleasure at seeing you in the Chair, and Thailand and Portugal as First Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur, respectively, for the period 2008-2009.

I would also like our deep appreciation to the dedication and efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the able leadership of Dr. Mazlan Othman for their untiring efforts in ensuring the smooth running of this meeting.

Before we begin our statement, we would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the people or members States and other States which were struck by severe natural calamities recently, to the people of the Republic of China for the recent earthquake and the people of Myanmar on the recent cyclone which has killed and injured thousands of innocent lives and making thousands more homeless and deprived of the basic necessities of life.

It seems that the more we try to make use of our high-tech technology, space-based included and our expertise, for the purpose of improving our readiness in facing these natural challenges, the more challenging it has become. I fully agree with you Sir that it is obvious that we have no other choice other than to work together as one team, one Earth team and one world.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, over the last one year in Malaysia, we have continued our endeavours in the development of our Space Programme that we believe will prosper the nation and benefit our people, our neighbours and the global humanity.

It is my pleasure to report to this meeting on progresses that we have made since last year.

The current _____(?) launch of our second remote sensing satellite, RASASAT(?), is now somewhere in the second half of this year. Several initiatives to go with the planned launch of RASASAT(?) has been in place.

A university payload micro-satellite, the UNISAT(?), and the technology demonstration the micro-_____ satellites and the final stage of its flight readiness.

The DGPS infrastructure for the marine users, SISCOSAT(?), is currently undergoing an upgrade to cover the entire shoreline of the Peninsula Malaysia. With this upgrade expected to be completed by the end of 2008 and getting the accuracy of that within five(?) metres(?) will be possible within the intended area of coverage.

The development of the assembly and integration and tests, the IP(?) Facility, and other labs at the Malaysian Space Centre is progressing. The Calibration Lab that consists of the _____sphere(?), has been successfully utilized with a _____(?) RASASAT Scanner. Upon completion the IP(?) Facility will be then able to fabricate and test our satellite systems _____(?).

Malaysia has fully supported implementation of the International Heliophysical Year IHY Programme. Our Programme covers human capital development, _____-tech development, education and public awareness programme.

The objectives of the HCD Programme is to develop the critical mass of researchers and scientists in solar physics and Earth-Sun relationships. Some of the programmes implemented are setting themes for scientists for the solar eclipse observation mission in China, organizing a Solar Physics Seminar with the theme "Living with the Sun", the attendance(?) of two important of speakers from the University of Fuji(?), Japan, and also _____(?), Indonesia, hosting the International School for Young Astronomers and collaborations with the IAU, focusing on solar terrestrial integrations(?), hosting the COSPAR Workshop on Space-Based UV Optical Astronomy and sending visitors(?) Ukraine in the _____ *(not clear)* Technology in Indonesia.

The Scientific Programme Development is to set up basic facilities, specifically for Malaysian researchers to conduct in-depth and systematically the solar physics and Earth-Sun relationships research, the coordination(?) of Eleno(?) is an important facility for the space science research activities which is currently connected to the global networks of the multi-_____ *(not clear)*, a magnetic data _____(?) system _____(?) instruments also hosted at Eleno(?) for the space weather programme in collaborations with the University of Fuji(?), Japan.

The education of public awareness programmes is to promote a better understanding among the public and the importance of the _____-physics phenomena and their effects on life. These programmes focus on activities for the national planetarium and outreach programmes throughout the country. And economic and solar activities has been made available online, educational materials have been produced such as posters on Sun-Earth relationships, _____(?) issue on solar, brochures on the Sun and public solar observations were organized.

Mr. Chairman, it is very kind of you to mention the recent successful implementations of our KASAWAN(?)-1 Programme. It has indeed spurred interest in the relation public at large and more importantly the schoolchildren to who it is important embracing science and technology for all future development. The initial analysis from the scientific experiments has also been encouraging with several ITs and at least one technology spin-off has been identified.

The fundamental importance of the education programme has been high on our agenda. For the first time, in 2007, we have successfully organized a 10-Set Competition for getting the participation of local universities. The winner of the 2007 Water Rocket Competition for the secondary schoolchildren were delighted to be sent to the Fourteenth APRSAF Competition at Bangalore, India. And a National Space Challenge Programme for the primary schoolchildren was also successfully carried out.

In the exhibition a national planetarium on space exploration is ready as part of our continuous efforts in educating the public on the importance of space programmes.

A Seminar on GNSS Policy was organized in 2007 with the objective of identifying important policy issues in Genesis, to be incorporated in the National Space Policy document. Ensuring the safety of local users was to be established throughout the country and similar(?) use of the GNSS applications are some of those issues identified.

A survey on the status of the local space-based industry is underway for the purpose of identifying the industry clusters awaiting future development.

Development of the fundamental National Space Policy is also in progress.

Mr. Chairman, we are progressively pursuing our international cooperation. The hosting of the International School of Astronomers, with the International Astronomical Union, IAU, the Ninth COSPAS Workshop on Capacity-Building with COSPAR, the Education 10-Set and Public-Wide Competition Programme was done in collaborations with JAXA. We have also indicated our intention to participate in the APRSAF Satellite Programme and continued our cooperation in regional disaster management through Sentinel-Asia.

We also supported the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation, APSCO, Initiative and Malaysia will formally become a member when certain issues regarding memberships are fully established.

With these applications of satellite technology, data of satellite images and the remote sensing sector has been continuously increasing. We hope that this will be enhanced with the development of satellite images in the future.

Satellite navigation has become the technology for the location-based services. Apart from the conventional navigation usages there are now infrared devices, _____(?) management, PDAs and _____ *(not clear).* The satellite communications applications has been better capitalized(?) with the recent launch of our MERSAT-3(?) communications satellite.

Mr. Chairman, clearly we are benefiting mostly from these space technologies and for that we realize the need to strategize our future commitment towards the maximum benefits from it in a way not upsetting the other focus of development. Thank you for now Mr. Chairman, our delegation will provide more information on the coming relevant agenda items. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: … *(No English interpretation)*

(Continued in English) Now I have the pleasure to give the floor to the Head of the United States delegation, Mr. Kenneth Hodgkins. You have the floor Ken.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the United States delegation, I would like to start by extending my sincere congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We look forward to working with you to ensure the successful outcome for this session.

Congratulations are also in order for the outgoing Chair, Gérard Brachet, and his Vice-Chairs.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation to the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their superb work over the past year and for their diligent efforts to prepare for our meeting over the coming days.

My delegation wishes to join others in expressing its deep condolences for the devastating loss of life through the cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China.

Since last year's session, the Committee and its Subcommittees have recorded a number of significant achievements in promoting international space cooperation. This year the achievement is a fitting tribute as 2008 is the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations General Assembly 1348, introduced by the United States and other delegations establishing an Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Ad Hoc Committee is indeed a significant milestone in that the Committee over this period has acted as a catalyst promoting international cooperation in space activities and fostering broad information exchange among space- and non-space-faring nations and the latest advances in space exploration and the resulting benefits.

This year also marks the forty-fifth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 1962, the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. This was adopted in December 1963. This Declaration was adopted at a time when space exploration and international interaction in outer space were new realities. Member States recognized that outer space, extraordinary in many respects, also presented unique legal issues. They also understood at the time that the extraordinary nature of outer space, and the rapid development of human activities in it, would be best served by a pragmatic and gradual approach to these legal issues.

The approach that member States chose, commencing with the study of questions relating to legal aspects, proceeding to the formalization of non-binding principles of a legal nature, and then incorporating such principles, in general, multilateral treaties, produced a legal framework that has stood the test of time.

The adoption of resolution 1962 represented a significant first step in this regard. It established the fundamental principles for the orderly use and exploration of outer space and set the stage for the negotiation and conclusion of the four core treaties that govern our activities in space today.

The Year 2008 also marks the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched Into Outer Space. This Rescue and Return Agreement was founded upon the commitment to international cooperation and the peaceful exploration and use of space and upon recognition of the need for international cooperation in responding to accidents, emergencies or other forms of distress. It remains as important today as it was in its inception.

The Treaty elaborates on the simple but profound humanitarian notion that is contained in 1967 Outer Space Treaty and General Assembly resolution 1962, that is astronauts shall be regarded as envoys of mankind in outer space and shall be rendered all possible assistance in the event of accident, distress or emergency.

Space exploration remains a dangerous enterprise and the possibility of accidents or emergencies is real. This Treaty established a framework for prompt and effective international response.

Mr. Chairman, this year is the fiftieth anniversary of NASA, and in that regard, we are pleased to have NASA Deputy Administrator, Shana Dale, with us tomorrow and she will make a special presentation on 50 years of United States space exploration.

I would like to note some recent activities of the United States Civil Space Programme. Since our last session, there have been five Space Shuttle missions to the International Space Station to continue Station assembly. Several more Shuttle missions will continue ISS construction and carry out the final servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope.

NASA also made considerable progress in moving forward to implement the Vision for Space Exploration. The Constellation Project, the system that will eventually be used to return humans to the lunar surface before 2020, is moving ahead and will see its first flight test in early 2009.

Further details were also unveiled regarding NASA's plan for an open architecture of a lunar outpost, one that maximizes opportunities for international participation.

And an important step in realizing a comprehensive global approach to exploration came within a 2007 release of the Global Exploration Strategy and Framework for Coordination, which reflects the shared vision of exploration focused on solar system destinations where humans may someday live and work.

To advance this Vision, participating space agencies agreed in November 2007 on the establishment of an International Space Exploration Coordination Group to which individual agencies may exchange information regarding interests, objectives and plans in space exploration.

And, of course, we would like to highlight a number of ongoing United States science and exploration missions. In 2007, the Hubble Space Telescope continued to make observations and instances of and distribution of dark matter in the Universe. The SPITZER(?) Space Telescope capture the light from two known planets orbiting stars other than our Sun, the first time extra-solar planets have been directly measured and compared.

One of the two stereo spacecrafts observed the collision of a comet with a solar hurricane in which a coronial mass ejection from the Sun completely detached the tail at this comet(?).

NASA's Mars Exploration Rover is still an opportunity to pass a fourth anniversary on Mars and continue their remarkable journey.

The New Horizons Missions to Pluto passed by Jupiter through gravity boosts to cut three years off its transit time to Pluto. It gave us the closest look yet at Jupiter's little red spot and observe volcanic eruptions on Jupiter's largest moons.

Finally, in preparing for the next wave of scientific discovery, NASA _____(?) the Phoenix Mission of five satellites to probe geo-magnetic storms, the aim mission to observe mysterious ice clouds at the edge of space and the Polar regions and their relation to climate change. The Phoenix Mission to Mars is northern Polar region and the Dawn Exploration Mission to Asteroids Syrus(?) and Vesta(?).

In June of last year, the GOES(?) Satellite, operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was decommissioned after 12 years of service. The GOES-13 satellite was put into on-orbit storage in January 2007 after completing its checkout and its serving as the on-orbit data, the NOAA's two other operational GOES satellites.

As part of the United States contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, NOAA re-positioned GOES-10 over South America to provide better weather coverage for that region. Since GOES-10 arrived at 60 degrees West in early December 2006, it has been providing South America with images and sounder data that is greatly improved by the forecast. Brazil and Argentina are using this data in building forecast models and making the data and products from the satellite available on their websites.

NOAA has sponsored workshops and training in the use of the data from the spacecraft and is planning a series of additional training opportunities.

The United States Geological Survey of the Department of Interior continues to operate the LANDSAT-5 and the LANDSAT-7 satellites. They make the data available to users worldwide.

NASA is now developing the LANDSAT Data Continuity Mission, scheduled for launch in 2011 which will also be operated by USGS.

In August 2007, the United States announced a new land imaging programme to be managed by the Department of Interior and implemented by USGS. Through this programme, the United States will provide a new level of global leadership in land research and land management, including enhanced monitoring of the effects of global climate and land use change. The new programme will consolidate responsibility user needs, assessment, satellite on data acquisition, technology advancement, data archiving and distribution and advanced applications development for United States civil operational land imaging.

Under this programme, long-standing United States non-discriminatory access and distribution policy will be continued for land imaging data.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, as many of you are aware, on 20 February this year, a specially modified anti-ballistic missile, fired from a United States Naval vessel, successfully engaged in non-functioning national reconnaissance _____(?)

satellite. This satellite, which had been registered with the United Nations Secretary-General, with the International Designator of the United States of America 193, is in its final orbit before making what would have been an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

Almost all the resulting debris from the engagement has fallen to Earth but to our knowledge, no debris has survived the re-entry.

We provide a detailed information on the engagement to the International News Media, many nations around the world, to diplomatic means, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in February and an update on the event to the Legal Subcommittee in April. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: .I would like to thank Mr. Hodgkins for his statement and I would like to tell him how, on behalf of the Committee, how pleased we are to welcome tomorrow Mrs, Dale from NASA, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of that particular organization. Thank you very much.

(Continued in Spanish) … (No English interpretation) …

Mr. C. MADSEN (European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, ESO): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates and representatives, this is the first time that the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, ESO, is represented at the meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and I have the honour to represent and introduce the Organisation to the distinguished delegates of the Committee, with the aim of seeking for a positive decision on ESO's request to be granted a permanent observer status with the Committee.

ESO has presented its request for permanent observer status in December 2006 via an official letter signed by the Director-General of ESO and afterwards at the UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee meeting in February 2007 and 2008 by the representative. ESO will be delighted to contribute to the work of the distinguished Committee, therefore, hoping and believing the meeting that the present Committee will approve the request of our Organisation.

In order to provide the Committee with the information necessary to make such a decision, let me please present the main activities of ESO.

ESO is the leading European scientific organization in the field of ground-based astronomy and astrophysics. It was established as an intergovernmental organization in 1962. From the founding five member States, ESO has grown to 13 by now, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The Republic of Austria is set to join ESO as of 1 July this year as its fourteenth member State.

Furthermore, several countries have expressed interest in joining the Organisation. Beside, ESO has a special relationship with Chile, the host country of our telescope facilities.

At the programme level, ESO cooperates with the United States of America, Canada and Japan. Furthermore, ESO has scientific links with Brazil and Australia and maintains dialogue with scientific communities around the world, including China and India.

ESO provides state-of-the-art research facilities to its member State astronomers and astrophysicists and also hosts research fellows from non-member countries. ESO's activities, as defined in the Convention, cover a wide spectrum of activities including the designing and construction of world-class ground-based observation facilities, large telescope projects, design of innovative scientific instruments, development of new and advanced technologies, furthering European cooperation in astronomy and carrying out pan-European programmes.

Some ESO activities are supported by the European Union, such as pan-European educational activities or certain technology developments.

Aside from its Headquarters, which are located in Gasching(?), near Munich, Germany, ESO currently operates facilities at three sites in the Atacama Desert in Chile. The first site is at Asea(?), a mountain 600 kilometres north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 metres altitude. The site operates five optical telescopes with primary mirror diameters of up to 3.6 metres.

The second site is Paranel(?), 130 kilometres south of the town of Antofagasta. This is the location for the Very Large Telescope, VLT, consisting of four 8.2 metre telescopes and four 1.8 metres auxiliary

telescopes. The VLT is not just considered the flagship facility of European astronomy but is globally regarded as the benchmark facility for ground-based optical and near-infrared astronomy. The VLT scientific operations started in 1999 and have resulted in a large number of highly successful research programmes.

The third site is at the 5,000 metre high Yan de Chacun(?) Tor in the Tiedien el Tiplano(?) where ESO currently operates a 12 metre APEX sub-millimetre and millimetre telescope. Chacun Tor(?) is also a site for the Atacama Large Millimetre and Sub-Millimetre Ray, or for short ALMA. ALMA is the largest ground-based astronomy project of the decade and it is consequently of a major new facility for world astronomy. The construction of ALMA started in 2003 and will be completed in 2012. It is supported by Europe, through ESO, North America and East Asia.

In December 2006, European astronomy received a tremendous boost with a decision by the ESO Council to proceed with detailed studies for an extremely large telescope. This study, with a budget of 57 million Euros, will make it possible to submit a proposal to its member States for the construction of an optical infrared telescope, with a diameter possibly as large as 42 metres. This telescope may revolutionize ground-based optical near-infra as much as when Galileo introduced his astronomical telescope for the first time.

The chosen design of the extremely large telescope is based on a unique and revolutionary concept specifically developed at ESO for telescopes of this size.

Besides the ground-based astronomy facilities, ESO is the host of the European Coordination Facility for the Hubble Space Telescope, a joint mission of NASA and ESA.

Recognizing the growing interconnections between ground-based and space-based astronomy, ESO and ESA have joint working groups to discuss astronomy topics of common interest, such as the search for extra-solar planets and to provide coordination of the ground- and space-based observations.

ESO is a multi-cultural and a multi-national organization with a strong track record when it comes to building links between three communities that are scientists, industry and the general public.

ESO plays a major role as the global and European scientific trendsetter and is also an important actor with respect to the European and international science policies. For example, ESO is the founding member of ARIA(?) Forum(?), the partnership of the largest intergovernmental and European research organizations which also include the European Space Agency and the European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN.

ESO is also a partner of the International Astronomical Union, the IAU. ESO strongly supports the activities and the concepts of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009 which will be a global celebration of astronomy and of its contributions to society and culture, stimulating worldwide interest, not only in this field, but also in science in general.

In December 2007, the International Year of Astronomy was declared by the Sixty-First General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution A/RES/62/200, appointing UNESCO as the Deed Agency within the United Nations systems but also assigning key roles to the International Astronomical Union and to ESO. Indeed, ESO is hosting the IAU Secretariat for the implementation of the global activities during the International Year of Astronomy.

So far, the International Year enjoys the support of 118 United Nations member States and 21 organizations.

Together with the IAU and the International Year of Astronomy Secretariat, ESO is hoping to promote the activities of the International Year at the UNCOPUOS meeting in 2009 and is therefore planning a special event to be organized here in the United Nations building next February.

ESO's long-term plans related to our participation in the work of this Committee rely on the belief that ground- and space-based astronomy need even more cooperation in the coming years and with the determination to act proactively in that direction, ESO wish to contribute to the work of UNCOPUOS with its utmost efforts as an observer.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates and representatives, ESO is determined to contribute to the work of UNCOPUOS in the following areas, the importance of space-based science, education for primary school through to PhD level and beyond, protection of the skies, notably with respect to election(?) of _____(?) pollution, outreach for social change and near-Earth objects.

We are looking forward to joining the relevant working groups and contributing to the highly-valued

work of the Committee and its Subcommittees upon approval of our request for permanent observer status.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates and representatives, I thank you for this opportunity to introduce ESO and to share our views with the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: *… (No English interpretation) …*

… until the Committee considered that concrete results had been achieved.

In paragraph 44 of its resolution 62/217 of last year, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had established a closer link, a stronger link between its worked implements, the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development by contributing to the thematic areas addressed by the Commission and agreed that the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat should be invited to participate in the sessions of the Committee to inform that Committee how it could best contribute to the work of the Commission and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs should participate in the sessions of the Commission to raise awareness and promote the benefits of space science and technology for sustainable development.

Last year at its fiftieth session, the Committee also reviewed and finalized its contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2008-2009 which is to be found in document A/AC.105/892 and this document will be made available to the Commission at its sixteenth session held in New York, 5-6 May 2008.

We have already heard the statement by the Director of the Office, Ms. Othman, on her participation at the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. She made a statement at the end of this morning's meeting.

At its fiftieth session, the Committee also agreed to continue contributing to the policy here of each of two-year cycles of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to consider its contribution to the work of the Commission for the period 2010-2011 at its sessions in 2008 and 2009.

At its forty-fifth session, held in February this year, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group of the Whole that the Secretariat should prepare for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-first session, a template and guidelines for use by member States and for observers of the Committee, in preparing inputs to the contribution of the Committee to issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the period 2010-2011.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have before you Conference Room Paper 3. This is A/AC.105/2008/CRP.3 which indicates the template and guidelines prepared by the Secretariat.

I will now give the floor to the Deputy Secretary to introduce this document. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Deputy Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is a pleasure for the Secretariat to introduce this document for the attention of delegations. In addition to what you have already outline, Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw delegations' attention to the Conference Room Paper 3, which was distributed in the pigeon holes before this afternoon's plenary.

At the same, I would also like to draw your attention to two other documents related to this matter. It is a document that looks like this, with the number DISA/DSD/2008/2. It is a document, it is a tabber note, the document that was distributed by the Division for Sustainable Development to the CSD-16 in May this year and this document contains the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2008-2009.

The reason why the Secretariat has distributed this document is to give you an understanding of how the document has been presented to the Commission on Sustainable Document. The document is, in fact, the document that was decided by COPUOS last year.

The third document is also an ECOSCO document with the number E/CM.17/2008/6 and this is the report of the Secretariat General Report to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth session which was held in May this year, Review of the Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on Drought. And in particular, the Secretariat would like to draw your attention to paragraphs 48 and 49 of that document. These two paragraphs relate to space

activities, the role of space technology applications for sustainable development and these paragraphs have been inserted upon the request by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and have been before the delegations to the CSD-16.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, turning back to Conference Room Paper 3, as delegations are aware, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session this year, requested the Secretariat to provide for this session of COPUOS, a template and guidelines for use by member States and permanent observers of the Committee in preparing inputs to the contribution of the Committee to the issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the CSD, in the period 2010-2011.

This document contains on Page 3 such a template which I will turn back to in a minute.

At the forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Secretariat distributed the two documents that I have already referred to, the documents distributed to the CSD.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/217, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs attended the sixteenth session of the CSD and this has already been referred by you, Mr. Chairman, and the Director of the Office this morning made a reference to her statement to the CSD. That statement was made within a thematic discussion panel on interlinkages and all cross-cutting issues on Friday, 9 May 2008. And in this document, CRP.3, the Secretariat has provided you with some information on that statement. The statement is available on the website of the Office.

There is only one point that the Secretariat would like to point out.

As you will recall, in this thematic cluster under the CSD work for 2008-2009, the areas under consideration are agriculture, land use and rural development, drought and desertification, and sustainable development in Africa. And in the speech by the Director of the Office, the Director pointed in particular to example that capture the role of space technology applications in contributing to overall food security. Overall food security and the emerging food crisis, or global food crisis, was one of the major overarching issues considered by the CSD in May and will, of course, be on the agenda for the policy _____(?) in 2009.

Distinguished delegates, on Page 2 of this document, the Secretariat has put down some information just to remind you of the overall thematic discussions within the Commission on Sustainable Development. As you are aware, this is the contribution by COPUOS to the CSD, was decided within the framework of the UNISPACE III + 5 Review, so it is one of the achievements and results of the UNISPACE III + 5 Review. And as you are also aware, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space already contributed to the thematic cluster 2006-2007, and that is the document that has already been deliberated and decided upon by this Committee.

And you are also aware that this Committee has contributed to the current cluster 208-2009 and that is, of course, contained in the document that I have already referred to.

Now, the remaining clusters. As you will see in the second paragraph on Page 2, the Secretariat has put together just an outline of the remaining clusters for 2010-2011, 2012-2013, etc. You will see there what items CSD will consider all the way up to 2017.

In the third paragraph we have outlined the issues that are common to each biennium cycle of the CSD. All the way from 2004 to 2017 and these common issues are called cross-cutting issues and they are addressed in all these clusters. And you will see there that they span over a broad range of issues that are under consideration by the CSD, like poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns (patents?) of consumption, etc.

The fourth paragraph outlines in broad terms a strategy that the Secretariat is proposing and that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space may endorse and make comments on.

It is important to note here that the CSD is working in a cycle with two years. The first year of every cycle is the review. The second year is the policy year, where decisions are made. For the review year, the Secretariat of the United Nations provides a report and the report is structured in a way that it is dealing with different sections. And there is the one part of the report deals with one area, the second part, the third part, the fourth part, etc.

In the view of the Secretariat, it is advisable that the contribution by this Committee, by COPUOS, be made of each review year of the cycle in order to make possible the inclusion of appropriate space-related elements in this overall Secretarial road and thus provide for such contributions to eventually to be

taken into account by the Commission on Sustainable Development during the following policy year.

The Secretariat intends to continue to work closely with the Division on Sustainable Development in order to prepare for the contribution by COPUOS to be made available to the CSD at each review year and to prepare for the following policy year and the future two-year cycles.

Now, with regard to the specific cycle of 2010-2011, as you will see from the template, the Secretariat has a few proposals for your consideration.

The report structure, issues to be included in the report and a proposed timeline. As far as the Secretariat sees it, the report by COPUOS could be structured very much the same way that was done previously, that was done for the 2008-2009 cycle.

The Secretariat proposes that under each section, which means under each section of this report that will deal with the thematic areas under this cluster, be transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a 10-year framework of progress on sustainable consumption and production patterns (patents?). These are the main areas to be considered in 2010-2011, that the Secretariat makes a summary of the main findings provided by COPUOS in order for the Secretariat to be able to get these findings into the Secretarial report of the CSD.

With regard to issues to be included in the report, you will see a couple of bullets there, as far as the Secretariat understands this, it would be, of course, beneficial to the CSD to know a little bit, a general factual description of how space technology applications are used for each of those areas under consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development. And these descriptions should also then take into account the cross-cutting issues which are the broader issues under consideration, and food security, as I said before, Mr. Chairman, is such a broad issue that is debated under 2008-2009.

It is, in the view of the Secretariat, important to focus on regional and international cooperation and coordination efforts. The Secretariat has examined the Secretariat report to the CSD, which you have before you, the report on drought. The report is quite frank. This is the way that the CSD is dealing with their reporting structures. They ask themselves questions like what are the lessons learned, what are the challenges to effect implementation, how to avoid duplication of efforts. So the Secretariat proposes that when this body, when COPUOS, puts together its contribution to the cluster 2010-2011, that we also consider such elements.

Now, regarding the proposed timeline, after COPUOS in June/July this year, the Secretariat intends to further cooperate, we are constantly cooperating, consultating with the Division of Sustainable Development, but we would like in particular to know from the Division of Sustainable Development what are the main concerns of the Commission on Sustainable Development under this cluster 2010-2011.

As you will see, we know already the thematic areas, transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, etc. The Secretariat is not yet aware of what really the CSD will deal with, what are the problematic areas that they will consider. On the website of the Division for Sustainable Development, their Division has explained under each of these areas but mining is missing, there was no explanation on what the CSD intends to focus on with regard to mining, for instance.

Regarding transport, yes, there is an example. The issue on transport is in accordance with the implementation plan and Agenda 21 related to atmosphere and human sacrifice.

Regarding waste management, the CSD will deal with hazardous waste, radioactive waste, solid waste.

And regarding chemicals, there is, of course, the problem related to toxic chemicals, risk assessment, appropriate risk assessment and assessment of chemicals for which data are at hand.

So these are just a few examples of issues that we want to seek advice from the Division of Sustainable Development in order for the Secretariat to prepare a request for submission by member States of COPUOS, permanent observers of COPUOS and United Nations entities through the inter-agency meeting mechanism so that we have a better understanding of how to focus on the report.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, this is what the Secretariat would like, what we wanted to stress upon and this document is now available for delegations to consider and the Secretariat would like to have comments on this plan and then the Committee might make a decision. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Thank you very much. On behalf of all the delegations, thank you very much for this exhaustive presentation which has been very methodically

presented. We are now faced with a sizeable challenge here. Indeed, how can we strengthen the existing link between our Committee and the CSD, a CSD which has been working on wide-ranging as well as specific topics, as we have just heard by the Deputy Secretary, especially within the 2010-2011 framework. I think that we are very satisfied to note that our Secretariat is actively strengthening our connections with the CSD. They are making our work easier in this way so I think we must for this reason respond properly to rise to the challenge, reacting to the various documents presented having to do with the possible links between space technology and sustainable development.

So this is a challenge to respond to. I am sure that you will have comments to this interaction. We have already referred to the transport of mineral ores and chemicals. We have to see how we can ensure the security of such transport. This is something which is very important. It is a very visible aspect of the work of our Committee. We can enjoy a much more leading role within CSD in this fashion if we rise to this challenge. This is why it is such a cornerstone of our activity. Thank you very much.

I see that the Ambassador of Chile has asked for the floor.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Thank you very much Chairman. I do not know whether I have just butted in a whole list of speakers which you had already.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: You may take the floor. You are not interrupting any list of speakers. I would be eager to hear you.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Thank you. I wanted to pick up on the points that you made because they seemed very relevant to me, the link between COPUOS and the CSD. This is a very important issue which appears in the backdrop of what constitutes a real threat to humanity, and here I am referring to food security as an issue. We are very satisfied with the work done by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. How could it be otherwise? The Office is always doing excellent work on very topical issues. Of course, we support such activities. But apart from that, we would have some initiatives to propose that there is continuity in this work within the General Assembly.

Yesterday, I do not know whether this was formal or informal, but we were talking with various delegations about the need to put more emphasis on outer space within United Nations General Assembly meetings. I was surprised to see that, well, I was not surprised that I was, my views were confirmed indeed actually that most delegations are not just aware enough of the importance of these issues. And on this issue in particular, as has been indicated before, I would propose that we should organize a group within the Fourth Committee of the United Nations when we broach issues related to international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space, that a group entrusted with food security issues and space activity aspects thereof should be set up.

We have received documents and I see that at the recent high-level FAO meeting, this issue was also broached and this has international aspects, but the FAO is a specialized agency of the system, and 100 countries were declared to be subjected to hunger, people are dying every single day. So it is our duty to do everything possible to put an end to this. This is our moral duty and our practical duty as well, to put an end to this sort of situation.

Issues having to do with migration also have to be addressed, as well as other issues. Very often on topics like this, countries tend to react in a inconsistent, ill-coordinated manner and this is certainly a shortcoming, given the serious threats before us. So we have to really respond with practical responses.

What can be done in practical terms? Well, a group can be set up so that a discussion can ensue. This would comprise various participants from universities, people qualified in various fields. In my country, we have conducted various studies on this and we have set up strategies and we would like to share these strategies with the international community. We would like to speak about this but we would also like to have the international community share their vision with us because the Chilean vision is not the only one, possibly not even the most appropriate one. But I think that there is something which is completely indisputable and that is the international community is faced with a failure here but they seem to be unable to respond, in spite of the great obstacles that many countries are subjected to. So we have to do something about this, and in the United Nations it is a matter that should be debated, not just in the superficial fashion, in a couple of meetings time, but a real decision has to be adopted. Last time, and we had a true debate and a real decision was adopted and I suggest that we set up a panel, an expert panel and this group should work alongside the Office for Outer Space Affairs and with its support, because the Office is the guarantor of the effectiveness of this group.

Possibly we should organize informal consultations, set up some mechanism that you could guide or someone else could guide. We need a practical modus operandi here, but I suggest that we forge ahead with this idea. We must push forward and not just be content with the several comments made today.

Yesterday, we spoke about the establishment of a working group. I do not know what that working group would deal with. That would have nothing to do with the interests of the developing countries. I do not remember what this working group was intended to actually do. I think that it was supposed to discuss matters which are totally unrelated to the interests of the developing countries. But here we are talking about a matter of utmost and fundamental importance for developing countries. I think that no country could afford to fail to participate in such a penal discussion. For that reason, Chairman, I suggest that we discuss this not during the sessions but over lunch, for example, and we should start talking about this and this on the backdrop of the issue of food security, Earth observation monitoring, the five treaties in effect, the principles in effect. I find that in this fashion we will be able to have a proper basis to enable a debate to unfold.

Chairman, please do something. I know that this represents extra work for you and for the Office, but I believe that all extra efforts are going to be more than welcome because, as we speak, there are people who are subjected to disastrous situations and I would like to get extra information on this proposal.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Before the Chair makes comments, would any of the delegations like to take the floor and comment on this subject? A subject that is extremely complex and sensitive and important and it is a huge problem that requires a solution and we need in some form to contribute towards that solution.

I see that the distinguished delegate of Belgium would like to speak first and then the distinguished delegate of India. You have the floor please.

Mr. J. F. MAYENCE (Belgium) *(interpretation from French)*: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wanted to speak on the substance of the issue rather than the methodology. I would like to recall the commitment of my country, my delegation, to the issues that have to do with society-related, humanitarian and economic applications of space technologies.

Every message issued by the Committee and various experts involved in this work is based on the principle that what we are looking for here is not to make space favourable for space's sake, but to seek applications that benefit humankind. What we are trying to do sometimes is promote space solutions without sufficiently taking into account solutions that exist in other areas and maybe space-based solutions sometimes are not the best in a particular area, maybe ground-based, Earth-based solutions are more appropriate in some cases. So what we would like to see is an attempt to try and identify those situations where space-based solutions are truly the most interesting and valuable solutions, more valuable than others.

I think we should do that if we are to live up to our commitment to using space in the best possible way for sustainable development.

In this area, we are not customers, if I may put it this way, we are service providers. The world looks up to us to provide solutions. But unless we do that first, establish these priorities, we risk veering off, going off on a tangent, ignoring existing solutions that need to be complemented or reinforced by space solutions but not replaced by them. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Thank you very much distinguished delegate of Belgium.

I recognize the distinguished delegate of India. Please, you have the floor Sir.

Mr. K. RADHAKRISHNAN (India): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. Our delegation joins the other delegations to say that this is an important matter that requires some time to be spent by this Committee. We know that space has done excellently well, contributing in a major way on several issues of concern to the CSD, and when space does it, it does along with the conventional system, space does not do it in isolation.

Number two, we compliment the Secretariat in providing a comprehensive _____(?) document, putting all these items together in four, five thematic clusters. Now, they have given a template and a timeframe, which is excellent, we need to work together for getting this document through in the coming few months and all of us need to provide the necessary inputs on time first to start the work.

There are some issues identified, there are some bullets, there is a suggestion on the _____ *(not clear)* where we have mentioned that we focus on international and regional efforts. We could also draw upon the good case studies from national activities, which are success stories which could be adapted by other countries. And I am sure that many of these member States present here would like to contribute in these areas.

And also we need to say what has been done, what has been the impact of it, and what more could be done using the space systems, and finally, in what way we need to shape the space systems of the future to address to these issues and what _____(?) national systems, the administrative systems, political systems, social systems. Then it will be a real contribution from space to the sustainable development. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)*: I thank you for your very constructive comments.

Would any other delegation like to participate in this discussion or share views, opinions?

There are two aspects here. One, how do we proceed with this document, which approach would be the most pragmatic in terms of the issues identified as before here. And the other aspect, which does not contradict the first one, is a clear and simple proposal which is to analyze the issue by participating in the United Nations General Assembly presenting the report through a panel that would try and define the way to proceed on this subject, particularly food security, as suggested by the distinguished Ambassador of Chile.

My suggestion, if I may, is to start by holding a series of informal consultations with a view to hearing the various positions, objections, comments and then we will report on the results of these consultations.

If there is no objection, then we are going to approve this approach, obviously with the consent and assistance of the Secretariat.

It is so decided.

Very well, the Secretariat always excellent suggestions. To make sure that we make the most efficient use of our time. We have about 45 minutes from now until the Reception and there are many interesting things to do in this building, obviously. In the meantime, and at the suggestion of the Secretariat, we could also use this time to have an informal discussion on the issues identified. At 6.00 p.m., of course, there will be a Reception, as announced earlier.

First distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Committee. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning.

We will reconvene promptly at 10.00 a.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of agenda items 5, General Exchange of Views, 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, and 7, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

Following the plenary, Mrs. Shana Dale, Deputy Administrator of NASA, will make a technical presentation entitled “NASA: The First 50 Years and Future Horizons”. This is something really special and I want all delegations to be presented please. This is a very important presentation which commemorates the anniversary of NASA and will make some very important points.

Any questions upon this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I, therefore, adjourn this meeting and we will have a Reception at 6.00 p.m.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting closed at 5.14 p.m.