

**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript*613<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Wednesday, 9 June 2010, 10 a.m.

Vienna

*Chairman:* Mr. Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia)*The meeting was called to order at 10.23 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN** (*interpretation from Spanish*): Good morning distinguished representatives. Welcome to Vienna and welcome to the United Nations. This is a very special day. I would like to welcome you all most cordially and I am pleased to welcome you here at the Vienna International Centre. I call to order this fifty-third session and 613<sup>th</sup> meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all aware, the Committee will shortly elect its Chair for a two-year term in accordance with the agreement reached at the fifty-second session of the Committee.

With the Committee's permission, I will continue to preside over this meeting until the new Chair, my successor, has been duly elected, at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair.

However, before commencing with the election of its officers, the Committee should adopt its agenda for this session.

We shall now proceed with the adoption of the agenda.

**Adoption of the agenda**

Distinguished delegates, you have before you for your approval and adoption, the provisional agenda for the session, as contained in document A/AC.105/L.276. This provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreements reached at the

2009 session of the Committee which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/86 of 10 December 2009.

An indicative schedule of work is set out in the Annex to the provisional agenda. Please note that the annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda for adoption by the Committee and are included only to assist delegations.

We should now proceed with the adoption of the agenda itself.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the agenda is adopted as in document A/AC.105/L.276?

If I hear no objections.

*It is so decided.*

**Election of officers (agenda item 3)**

Item 3, election of the officers.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to agenda item 3, Election of Officers.

In paragraph 43 of its resolution 64/86 of 10 December 2009, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2010-2011 and agreed that the Committee and its Subcommittees should elect their officers at their respective sessions in 2010 in accordance with that composition.

At its session last year, the Committee noted that Dumitru Dorin Prunariu of Romania, Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa, and Raimundo González

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.



Aninat of Chile, would be elected to the offices of Chair, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2010-2011.

At its forty-seventh session earlier this year, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee elected Mr. Ulrich Huth of Germany Chair of the Subcommittee for a two-year term in office.

At its forty-ninth session earlier this year, the Legal Subcommittee elected Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh of the Islamic Republic of Iran Chair of the Subcommittee for a two-year term in office.

May I take it that the Committee endorses the election of the officers of its Subcommittees for the period 2010-2011?

I see no objections.

*It is so decided.*

So unless there is any objection, as it is indeed the case, may I take it that the Committee would wish to elect Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu of Romania as its Chair for the two-year term starting from this session in 2010?

I see no objection.

*It is so decided.*

I warmly congratulate Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu on his election.

Before I invite my dear colleague and friend to assume the Chair, allow me just to make a few remarks as the outgoing Chair of the Committee.

I am making these comments in completing these two years in office and I will do so in a very flexible manner, friendly, no doubt, and as a result of my experience covering the past two years.

I think COPUOS has special proactive attitude and not reactive attitudes and that is one of its strength because it is one of the areas of activity that really displays the greatest vitality. We are, I think, witnessing a point in time when space is truly shared on a worldwide scale and the economy and the security of the whole world really depend and rely heavily on such activities. There is a reaffirmation of the principle of interdependence reaching everyone of the players participating in space activities, be they governmental or non-governmental, private sector or official in

nature, well they all have an impact on the other players involved.

We are witnessing a growing number of States that wish to develop and extend their capabilities and they are found in the five regions of our planet. We are likewise witnessing national space policies being developed and there are space agencies being set up. There are many things happening and it is unprecedented at this point in time in terms of space activity.

Non-governmental organizations are also expanding their form of participation in space-related activities and naturally there is a process of commercialization and also privatization is under way and we, as States, have to be very realistic in our approach.

At the same time, we see that there is a growing reference to the societal paradigm and the shared responsibilities that we have to face the very many problems with. And this very naturally meant that COPUOS has, in keeping with its tradition, taken a proactive stance. We are looking at the prospective of spin-offs and that is why during the two years when I had the honour and privilege of representing the Latin American continent in this area, we have witnessed quite a number of results. I will not go into any greater detail because that is not part of the role I play here but I would like to underline some of the key elements.

We had made a contribution to the recognition of space as part and parcel of the global agenda and we have had two high-level panels within the United Nations and the General Assembly, one to attend to food security and another on pandemics, global health and space technology. And we are making a contribution in a consolidated fashion to the contributions of the Commission in terms of the overall Global Development Programme of the United Nations and sustainable development and that gives our Commission the place it deserves within the United Nations.

New topics also came on our agenda, and here I would like to point to the main one, which in my understanding, is climate change and the relationship between climate change and space technology is fundamental indeed and we will be looking at this, no doubt, at the next meeting in Mexico.

It is also the topic of national legislation that we have considered. As I was saying, we have this great variety of activities going on in a decompartmentalized fashion but we have to look at

United Nations policies generally and international cooperation in this context. If we have greater similarity between national policies, we will be developing greater potential in terms of development and cooperation. But we have major challenges that we need to face irrespective of the technological level of development of countries and that is why sustainability of space activities was introduced as a topic, tied to the Guidelines and Codes of Conduct. This is a very important topic indeed.

I also wanted to say that we gave new impetus to the operational part of COPUOS, as I would call it, and basically the part played by space in the United Nations via programmes that I believe are the most important legacy of UNISPACE III, the SPIDER system and the Global Navigation Systems and the ICG Commission. Those are very specific products that we have derived from COPUOS and that particularly attend to natural disasters but, and this applies to SPIDER and GNSS, of course, high-precision agriculture. We are not just producing a platform for consideration of these topics, we are bringing forward very specific products for the benefit of the United Nations.

As for methodology, we introduced a new format for the resolution that is to go to the General Assembly. It is more solid, more consolidated and more streamlined and it will produce a better impact. We find evidence of this in the fact that the number of delegations participating in space-related matters has virtually doubled over the past years. There is more interest and delegations are focusing more on space-related topics.

One of the items, in my opinion, which is of the greatest significance, and where I made personal efforts but as your representative also, has to do with the development of regional cooperation platforms. And here we supported, and indeed witnessed major efforts exerted in four regions in particular. First, and this is, of course, my selfishness that is speaking out in the Latin American region where I am most pleased to have here the Pro Tempore President of the Secretariat of the Americas, Ambassador Fernando Suárez, here with us. It is a huge effort that was exerted in Latin America. But we need to mention Africa also, where I was privileged to attend the NAC, the Leadership African Conference on that continent in Algeria where it was likewise shown how a group of countries signs and has a uniform vision of cooperation at a point in time when Africa, South Africa and Algeria signed an Agreement on space-related issues.

And as for Asia and the Pacific, there are also very important topics where I attend one, the APRSAF, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum met, and then the Sentinel-Asia topic where I went to Viet Nam and I saw how the Asia and Pacific Region is exerting efforts and achieving very interesting results. And there is another structure there, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, APSCO, and those are really excellent efforts.

So as a result thereof, we have an interregional scheme for cooperation. It is very important to note this. Next year on the occasion of the International Astronautical Federation in South Africa, we will be looking at an interregional scheme for cooperation purposes.

All these views, and I apologize for having taken some time, all these aspects led us to propose, in the form of a document which is known as United Nations Space Policy, a series of proactive approaches, forward-looking programmes that enabled us to act in step with international realities. Though we have exerted huge efforts in COPUOS discharging the mandate of several resolutions, particularly the one on international cooperation, this proposal sought better global governance of space-related topics and the topic was indeed support. I very much thank delegations displaying their support, their interest in ongoing consideration of this and we hope that the United Nations, the General Assembly after all gave us a clear mandate in the form of the resolution to continue with our consideration of these topics over the two weeks to come and I must say that this is the legacy of the Latin American region to the work of COPUOS and, yet again, I would like to thank you for your support.

One of the major elements that need to be borne in mind by a Chairperson is the support that I received over the past two years. Those will be my last words. I would like to thank the two Vice-Chairpersons giving their support, Mr. Suvit Vibulsresth from Thailand, the First Vice-Chairman, and here sitting on my left, Filipe Duarte Santos from Portugal, for their very conceptual assistance. We did all this work together because we have a Commission working with the two Subcommittees and, of course, I would like to thank the Legal Subcommittee, my very dear and admired friend, Professor Vladimir Kopal and Mr. Aboubekr-Seddik Kedjar from Algeria, and here I was honoured and pleased to meet him in his country during the meeting and he is responsible for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. I would like to ask the Latin American region to accept my thanks for their fullest support and say to them that it was a

privilege and an honour to have presided over these past years.

I would like to thank the Secretariat of COPUOS which is the Office for Outer Space Affairs and particularly Mr. Niklas Hedman, sitting here on the rostrum, and a highly-effective Secretariat team. Thank you ever so much and I thank likewise the member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the permanent observers outside playing a very important part indeed. We are indebted to them.

I would like to thank the Colombia, the country that I represent, for the trust and the support placed in me. And finally all of you for a very harmonious, effective and visionary manner of working together over the past two years, producing more than just concrete results but a very constructive and positive environment which makes this Commission truly a model. I say that with 25 years worth of experience a model within the United Nations system.

Thank you ever so much.

Now, having made my statement, I would like to invite the new incoming Chairperson, Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu, to assume the Chair of this Commission.

**Mr. D. D. PRUNARIU** (Romania) (Chairman): I would like to thank my colleagues, Ciro Arévalo Yepes of Colombia, Suvit Vibulsresth of Thailand, and Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal, for their remarkable work as the Chair, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair Rapporteur, respectively, of the Committee for the period 2008-2009.

### **Election of officers (agenda item 3)**

Distinguished delegate, I would now like to turn to the election of the other officers of the Committee, namely the First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair Rapporteur.

Unless there are any objections, may I take it that the Committee elects Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa as First Vice-Chair, and Raimundo González Aninat of Chile as Second Vice-Chair Rapporteur of the Committee for the two-year term from its 2010 session.

I see no objections.

*It is so decided.*

I extend my warmest congratulations on their election and invite them to take their seats at the podium.

I would like to inform the Committee that I have received requests from the following delegations seeking permission to attend the current session of the Committee as observers: the Governments of Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, the Holy See, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

I would, therefore, like to suggest that in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate, that is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decisions of the Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy that we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

*It is so decided.*

I would like to inform the Committee of the application by Tunisia to become a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The official communication by Tunisia was received by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on 14 August 2009 and was duly communicated to all Permanent Missions of member States of the Committee in a Note Verbale. The Note Verbale received is contained in Conference Room Paper 3 to this session. The Committee will take the decision on this request under agenda item 16, Other Matters, next week.

I would like to inform the Committee that I have requests from the following organizations seeking permission to attend the current session of the Committee as observers. The representatives of the following organizations: the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS), and the Association of Arab Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World.

I would, therefore, like to suggest that in conformity with past practice, we invite those organizations to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate, that is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decisions of the Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy that we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

*It is so decided.*

#### **Statement by the Chair (agenda item 4)**

I would now like to move to the next item on the agenda and present my statement to the Committee.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the fifty-third session of the Committee. I am honoured to have been elected Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period up to the session of the Committee in June 2012. I thank you all for your confidence in me and I assure you of my commitment to continuing the successful work of the Committee.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Ciro Arévalo Yepes who skilfully guided the work of the Committee for the past two years. Under his leadership, the Committee made a number of significant achievements.

For half a century, this Committee has witnessed and has been at the centre of humankind's amazing exploration and utilization of outer space. Since its establishment, the Committee has actively promoted efforts aimed at furthering space exploration and at bringing the benefits of space technology to Earth in order to ensure sustainable development for all countries. This year we can also look back at the successful first decade of the Millennium. With this in mind, I am confident that COPUOS will continue to manifest its unique platform for international cooperation in space activities.

In 2007, we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, SPUTNIK-1, the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty, and the fiftieth commemoration of the International Geophysical Year. In 2009, we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the first human landing on the Moon. We also celebrated the tenth anniversary of UNISPACE III.

Next year, 2011, will again have reasons to mark important milestones in space flight, space exploration and international cooperation in space by commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I am determined to make 2011 a memorable year in the history of COPUOS for all of us to look back on our past achievements with pride and to look forward to the next decade of the Millennium.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat is already preparing for our 2011 celebration next year. I, therefore, invite you all to join me in making use of this year's session of COPUOS to discuss our common preparations.

Distinguished delegates, since 1999, with the holding of UNISPACE III, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has aligned many of its activities with the Global Development Goals as set by the Millennium Summit in 2000, articulated by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, and reaffirm by the 2005 World Summit.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has undertaken a remarkable process in meeting the goals of the Conference. The implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III has been a central effort by our Committee throughout this period. During these 10 years, COPUOS and its Subcommittees have demonstrated strong commitment in enforcing the role of space science and technology applications in meeting the major challenges to global development.

At the same time, we are facing major challenges to society: the massive earthquake in Haiti, together with the devastating earthquake in Chile this year and other disasters continuously hitting our societies. More recently, the severe flooding in different parts of the world demonstrate once again how vulnerable we are against the forces of nature and how important it is to build capacities to mitigate devastating effects of disasters. Loss of life and property could be diminished if better information were available to improve risk assessment, early warning and monitoring of disasters. In that regard, the integrated and coordinated use of space technologies and their applications can play a crucial role in supporting disaster management by providing accurate and timely information and communication support.

Space tools are indispensable in other areas closely inter-linked with disasters such as climate change, food security and global health.

The Committee and its Secretariat have continuously made efforts to promote and increase awareness in capacity-building in the use of space

science and technology applications at the international, regional and national level in many of these critical areas of concern to all humanity and global development.

Space tools are multi-faceted and they strongly support the implementation of actions called for at the global level.

Research and development in space science and technology is a fundamental prerequisite for any space application for the benefit of human development on Earth for protecting and preserving the Earth and space environment and in many exploration efforts in the Universe and our Committee stand at the front in bringing the work together in using that technology for peaceful purposes.

Our experience in this decade has demonstrated that we have the opportunity to further strengthening our common efforts at the national, regional, interregional and global level to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Space exploration and advances in space science and research are fundamental pillars for the operational use of space technology and its applications. We now have the opportunity to look closer into how advanced space research and exploration systems and technologies might contribute to addressing specific concerns such as the need for cleaner energy and drinking water, the management of natural resources, tele-education and tele-health applications and capacity-building.

In this sense, we also have the opportunity to look more closely into how scientific research in human space flight can become an even stronger tool for the benefit of development.

The International Space Station, being the largest international cooperation project, is expected to be fully completed and operational later this year. This is a milestone in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and offer a great opportunity for us to discuss ways of utilizing this potential for research to the benefit of sustainable development and in meeting global development goals.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee made considerable achievements this year. I would like to congratulate Mr. Ulrich Huth of Germany and Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh of the Islamic Republic of Iran on

their election as Chairs of the two Subcommittees and on their skilful guidance of the work of these bodies.

Likewise, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Shivakumar of India, Mr. Sam Harbison of the United Kingdom, Mr. Sergio Camacho of Mexico, Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil, Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria, and Mr. Jean-François Mayence of Belgium, for their excellent leadership this year of the respective Working Groups of the Subcommittees.

I would also like to welcome Mr. Peter Martinez of South Africa who was elected this year to lead the new Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

The Committee and its two Subcommittees have, for the past 10 years, together demonstrated the will of its members to advance the important role of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by making important decisions in term of protecting the Earth and space environment and enhancing the capacity of States in promoting economic, social and cultural development and by enhancing the understanding of regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect.

The common efforts of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee in promoting implementation at the national level of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, endorsed by the General Assembly in 2007, are commendable.

I am pleased to note the ongoing activities of member States and international organizations aimed at the mitigation of space debris and that the interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, IADC, is evolving.

Another example, is the adoption by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee last year of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources, NPS, Applications in Outer Space which demonstrated a successful interrelationship between our intergovernmental body and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The new Work Plan under this item is promising and the dedicated workshops planned for the next coming years will deepen the understanding of this important field.

The Committee has for the past years made considerable efforts in addressing the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations. In this

regard, the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee made significant progress this year towards a new focus on the contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In this context, I note with great interest that the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will from next year focus particular attention to coordination efforts of United Nations entities in addressing the CSD thematic cluster of work.

Defending Earth from the threat of asteroids is another increasingly important endeavour and the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Action Team 14 are making progress under their respective Work Plans to meet this goal.

I would like to commend the assistance provided by the Association of Space Explorers to this work, in particular its series of international workshops and its report "Asteroid Threats: A Call for Global Response".

The International Heliophysical Year 2007 was successfully concluded and I am pleased to note that the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continues under the new agenda item "International Space Weather Initiative" with specific focus on the efforts of space weather on Earth and its impact on, *inter alia*, communication and transport. This is a particular field where the indispensable tool of space science demonstrates its direct role in the sustainable development of the Earth and space environment.

The Legal Subcommittee has made considerable achievements during the past 10 years by, *inter alia*, arriving at the common analogies (analysis?) of the benefits, rights and obligations under the legal regime of outer space and by concluding its work leading to two important General Assembly resolutions on the concept of the launching State and on enhancing registration practice. In line with these efforts, the Legal Subcommittee is presently conducting an examination of national space legislation and regulatory frameworks for space activities.

The Working Group on National Space Legislation of the Legal Subcommittee provided this year a strong fundament for arriving at the promising and highly adequate report under its Work Plan. The Legal Subcommittee is presently also involved in looking more closely into exploration activities for the Moon and other celestial bodies in the context of international space law.

These are some examples of the activities and concrete achievements made by our Committee and its two subsidiary bodies. In addition, the Committee and its Subcommittees made considerable progress in this past decade on revitalizing the agenda structure and the overall organization of work.

A successful mechanism for rotation of the Bureau was establishing and we are witnessing a strong ongoing development in the knowledge-base of our intergovernmental process by means of expert presentations, panel discussions and symposia.

Some of the major reports, as well as the General Assembly's Omnibus Resolution, have been re-shaped, \_\_\_\_\_(?) and future demands.

Through the years, there are many experts in science, law and policy that have offered their skills and time to guide other committees in the processes leading to concrete results. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all of them for their extraordinary contributions and leadership in advancing our common endeavour to continuously manifest the unique role played by COPUOS and its two subsidiary bodies at the global level.

Distinguished delegates, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continuously considers the latest developments in the field of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, GNSS, and benefits that the use of GNSS brings to the world's economies and societies. This important platform for international cooperation and coordination is achieving interoperability among GNSS providers. It is a unique endeavour and highly contributes to the overall aim of efficient interaction in one of the most important fields of space applications.

I am pleased to note the activities being undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as Executive Secretariat of ICG.

How to successfully build capacity in space law, particularly in developing countries. It is a key area of the Legal Subcommittee. Education, research and development and dissemination of information are identified as necessary to enhance capacity in this field.

I am, therefore, pleased to note that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in close cooperation with an Expert Group of Educators in Space Law and the Directors of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations is advancing the completion of a curriculum for a basic

course on space law that will initiate spatial studies at the Regional Centres.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications continues to play an important role in improving capacity of particularly developing countries to use space technology to support efforts to attain sustainable development and meet global development goals. On the basis of proposals made by the Office, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee recommended the proposed activities of the Programme from 2010 for approval by the Committee at this session, as contained in the report of the Subcommittees.

The Office will also present to us at this session its planned activities for 2011.

In view of my earlier observations on the challenges to humanity caused by disasters, I note with pleasure the progress made in the implementation of the planned work of the United Nations SPIDER for 2010-2011.

I would also like to express appreciation related to the voluntary resources that have been provided by various member States as well as all other member States that have indicated their willingness to make cash and in-kind contributions to support States that have any(?) to support implementation of the Programme.

The United Nations SPIDER is becoming an essential mechanism and strong tool for better coordination of disaster management efforts at national and regional levels.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives, the role of international organizations and other entities in the space field continue to be of major importance to our common endeavour to promote space activities at the national, regional, interregional and global level. I would like to underline the particular role of regional mechanisms in providing platforms for enhanced coordination and cooperation between space-faring nations and emerging space nations and in establishing partnerships between users and providers of space-based services.

In this regard, I am pleased to note the holding of the Third African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, ALC, in Algeria, in late 2009, and that the preparations for the fourth Conference, to be hosted by Kenya, in 2011, are advancing.

A successful Sixteenth Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF, was held in Thailand in January this year. I attended the Forum and I am highly impressed by the organization of the Forum. The coordination efforts between the Forum and Sentinel-Asia as well as other regional programmes and initiatives, are very promising.

The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, APSCO, with its firm infrastructure for cooperation is most welcome by the international community. I also welcome APSCO as the newest permanent observer to COPUOS.

The preparations for the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas are progressing and I would like to commend the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Government of Ecuador and the International Group of Experts for their active preparations. Four promising preparatory meetings have already been held, the latest one in May this year, and I look forward to a successful Conference later this year to be hosted by Mexico.

In this context, I would also like to highlight the important role that the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations play in enhancing cooperative efforts. The work being carried out by the Regional Centres and supported under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, is highly commendable. The Regional Centre have firmly established infrastructures for advanced training in the field of space science and technology and their long-standing education programmes are highly successful.

We gain invaluable support by many other efforts and through the invaluable support given to COPUOS by our permanent observer organizations in cooperation with our members. Just to maintain a few in addition to what I have already related to.

The International Astronautical Federation, IAF, together with the respective host countries, organize every year the International Astronautical Congress which provides a fundamental dialogue between all stakeholders in the space field, both at governmental and private sector level. Last year, the IAC was hosted by the Republic of Korea and I am very pleased to note its highly successful conclusions.

I am looking forward to this year's IAC which will be hosted by the Czech Republic and in 2011 by South Africa.



I would like to thank the International Institute of Space Law, IISL, for the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL, for having very successfully organized a Symposium at this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee on the theme "National Space Legislation: Crafting Legal Engines for the Growth of Space Activities".

The work of the International Academy of Astronautics, IAA, should be commended not least for the involvement in the International Year of Astronomy 2009. The participation of youth through the Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, which has produced important contributions to our work, is most welcome.

I have also noted with interest that the European Space Policy Institute, ESPI, the IAA(?) and the Secure World Foundation co-organized in 2009 a Conference on the Fair and Responsible Use of Space demonstrating a broad interdisciplinary effort in addressing this important endeavour. The proceedings of this effort were published this year.

Since our last session, we have witnessed many achievements in space by the members of this Committee considering that all delegations have all been presented with a CD-ROM containing the comprehensive publications "Highlights in Space 2009" which was also distributed at the two Subcommittees this year. I will not go into that on these efforts. I would nevertheless like to express my sincere gratitude to the IAF and IISL for having produced this publication.

"Highlights in Space" continued to provide us all with an update knowledge-base on the wide spectrum of space activities at different levels and I welcome next year's 2010 edition with contributions by COSPAR.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives, we have much to discuss and agree upon in the coming days. However, taking into consideration the outstanding record of achievements, the successful resolution of various complex issues while maintaining ourselves(?) in the process and with your cooperation and valuable contributions, I am confident in the success of this session. Together and through the hard work of each and everyone of us at this session, I am certain that we will meet our common goals and challenges.

I thank you all of you for your kind attention.

Distinguished delegates, as in the past, the indicative schedule of work annexed in the agenda, which was adopted by the Committee earlier this morning, will be followed in the flexible manner as much as possible and can be adjusted as we proceed with our work. General Assembly resolution 32/71 requires that members of each United Nations body be informed at the beginning of each session of the resources available to each.

I would like to inform you on the arrangements made for this session of this Committee.

Assigned Conference Meeting Rooms, Conference Room M01, MOE13, MOE19, M7, MOE100, MOE18, MOE16, MOE15 and E0951.

Simultaneous interpretation, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and sound recording will be provided for the plenary meetings in the original language and in English.

Please note that in the Annex to its resolution 56/242, the General Assembly adopted guidelines on limiting the duration of meetings including the following:

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, namely from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on working days; and

(b) Intergovernmental bodies should undertake a review of their meeting patterns and reporting cycles and in coordination with Conference Services adjust their meeting requests for subsequent sessions accordingly.

In addition to the above, financial and capacity constraints in Conference Services coincide with a trend of increasing demand for both meeting and documentation services. The existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload. There is a need to adhere strictly to guidelines on providing interpretation, meeting and documentation services. In particular, ad hoc meetings, informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours or on non-working days will not be services. The Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficiency measures such as increasing ultra-synch(?), fully electronic document processing, reduced overtime and night shift and intensive editorial report drafting assistance.

Therefore, close coordination and cooperation between delegations, the substantive Secretariat and

Conference Services it is even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Services will do their best to deliver to us as they did in the past. With timely submission of in-session documentation, they will deliver as much documentation in all six official languages as possible. However, due to the constraints already mentioned, some documentation may only be available for the afternoon closing session unedited or in English only, depending on how late it was submitted for processing.

On your behalf, I would like to assure the Secretariat that they can count on the usual good cooperation and understanding of delegations in keeping submission deadlines. I trust that we will bring this session to a successful closing.

I would also like to remind delegates of the General Assembly's request to cut down on the length of reports issued by the Secretariat including the reports of intergovernmental bodies. Since the Secretariat continues to be pressured to further reduce the length of our reports, measures will be taken in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary-General towards achieving this. However, I give you assurance that this will be done without effecting quality or content of the report and, therefore, request your understanding and support in this matter.

Delegates are requested to turn mobile telephones off when entering any Conference Room. Mobile phones switched on and on standby seriously interfere with the sound systems in Conference Rooms and hence affect the quality of interpretation and sound recording. I strongly urge you to please adhere to this request. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to draw your attention to the agenda for our session contained in document A/AC.105/L.276. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session this year recommended to the Committee that taking into account the importance of the item "Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities", its Working Group be allowed to hold one meeting during the fifty-third session of the Committee in June 2010 with interpretation service in the six official languages of the United Nations with a view to further developing its Terms of Reference and method of work. Accordingly, in the indicative schedule of work attached to document A/AC.105/L.276, the meeting of that Working Group is scheduled for Monday afternoon, 14 June.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the Committee agrees to allow the Working Group on

Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, under the chairmanship of Peter Martinez of South Africa, to hold that meeting as scheduled.

I see no objections.

*It is so decided.*

#### **General exchange of views (agenda item 5)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of item 5 of our agenda, General Exchange of Views.

As a general guideline, statements under this item should last no longer than 10 minutes.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Costa Rica, the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica, Her Excellency Ms. Ana Teresa Dengo Benavides, on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Group.

Please you have the floor.

**Ms. A. T. DENGÓ BENAVIDES** (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you Sir. On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I would like to congratulate Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu of Romania, who was elected Chairperson of this Committee. We will express our conviction that under your wise guidance and our support, we will be able to conclude our deliberations successfully.

Through you, we would like to furthermore extend our words of congratulations to other members of the Bureau.

A special word of thanks to Ambassador Ciro Arévalo of Colombia, having completed his period as Chairperson, for the wise conduct of the deliberations of the Committee and valuable achievements.

We would like to express our interest in consolidating peace and international security and strengthening international cooperation. We have deeply attached respect for the principles that apply to the legal use and exploration of outer space, particularly access to outer space in conditions of equality to benefit all States without any discrimination regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development.

We thus support the regional activities intended to strengthen the universal nature of the use

and exploration of outer space and its equitable and rational use, (b) the principle of non-appropriation of outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies that is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty by means of use or occupation or by any other means, and (c) non-militarization of outer space which is the heritage of humankind and, therefore, its strict use to improve the living conditions and bring about peace between peoples that inhabit our planet, and (d) regional cooperation as decided in the General Assembly of the United Nations and other international fora.

GRULAC firmly believes that international cooperation should be strengthened in the context of COPUOS to improve living conditions of mankind. We especially are interested in legislation, protecting the environment, bringing about technological capabilities, prevention and mitigation of national (natural?) disasters, scientific and technological research in developing countries and in the context of international cooperation, as contained in resolution 64/86 of the General Assembly of 10 December 2009 on international cooperation governing the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and other high international fora.

Mr. Chairman, the Group would support COPUOS in terms of maintaining and strengthening its activities within the United Nations system in keeping with the proposal that was made at the fifty-second session. This is the policy termed towards a United Nations space policy and particularly in matters referring to science and space technology in order to satisfy the sustainable development requirements of all countries. Giving due attention to space policy, may mean that we constantly and jointly face the challenges of the next years. GRULAC, we would like to recall the mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 64/86 to have that proposal considered in greater depth by the Committee during the fifty-third session and we invite all member States to make contributions making sure that COPUOS is of a benefit to the United Nations and the world in general.

On substantive areas, GRULAC believes that the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines are particularly important. We think it is a priority issue to give in-depth consideration to the topic, giving greater attention to debris from platforms with nuclear power sources in outer space, collisions of space objects and space debris and other spin-offs and also improving technology to monitor this.

We likewise encourage member States to implement these Guidelines and bring to the attention

of this Committee and to disseminate information on activities intended to reduce the generation of space debris, especially those States responsible to a great extent for what we have thus far, all of which should be done in conformity with resolution 62/217 of the General Assembly.

We furthermore believe that nuclear power sources in outer space is an area where GRULAC in deep respect for international norms believes that the use of nuclear power sources in outer space is a responsibility of States, irrespective of their social, economic, scientific or technical development, and is the responsibility of all humankind. We reiterate the international responsibility of governments in national activities which would call for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, to be properly done by government bodies or non-governmental authorities, but it is important that they be done for the benefit of humankind and not at its expense.

Furthermore, GRULAC believe it is necessary to continue studies and analyses on the use, practices and regulatory aspects, in particular giving greater attention to satellite platforms with nuclear power sources in Earth orbit, particularly in the light of reported failures and possible conditions that would be a risk for humankind and the harmful impact on the environment and the biosphere of the Earth.

On this basis, and making particular mention of the Safety Framework applying to nuclear power sources in outer space, adopted by COPUOS at the fifty-second session, GRULAC would call on member States to promote regulatory texts for the purpose of improving practices in the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, in particular to prevent their use on Earth orbit, thus guaranteeing that any activity developed in outer space be governed by the principle of preserving life and peace.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC gives special attention to equitable access for all States to the orbit spectrum resource in the geostationary orbit. This has huge potential to implement social programmes for the benefit of all in educational and medical assistance projects for our countries. The Group believes that sustainability in space activities can only be assured if equitable free access to this orbit and spectrum is enshrined in international instruments.

For the aforementioned reason, GRULAC would like to reiterate its position in that the natural resource, since it is limited, could well be saturated. That is why its use should be rationalized and should be made extensive to all States, particularly bearing in

mind the needs and interests of developing countries and the geographical position of some countries in line with the principles established in the standard-setting areas and the decisions of the ITU and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, bearing in mind in particular what was agreed by the Legal Subcommittee in document A/AC.105/338/Annex 3 and giving privileged attention to the sustainable development aspects and the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. This is why, in order to ensure the peaceful and sustainable use of the geostationary orbit, GRULAC believes it is necessary to look into the aforementioned topics in such a manner as to have a permanent discussion within COPUOS and the agendas of its two Subcommittees of a fully inter-State level through the creation of groups of action, Working Groups or intergovernmental panels as required. GRULAC believes that it is indispensable for this Committee to step up its interaction with the two Working Groups (Subcommittees?), the Scientific and Technical Group (Subcommittee?) and the Legal Subcommittee for the purpose of preparing international standards that would be binding, such as the use of nuclear power sources and space debris in particular, with the main responsibility that the United Nations, in the legal area, is intended to develop a progressive international law and standard-setting and, in this case, in the outer space environment.

Furthermore, the revision, update and amendment of the five treaties of the United Nations relating to outer space, for the purpose of strengthening the guiding principles that govern these activities of States, in particular the peaceful use, strengthening international cooperation and making space technology accessible to all humankind.

Sir, GRULAC gives recognition to the work done by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in the context of the United Nations SPIDER Programme and we are pleased to note the Cooperation Agreement entered into between the United Nations SPIDER Programme and the Tropical Centre for Water Latin America and Caribbean, known as CATALAC, and we would like to have this kept on the agenda for 2011, believing that the Work Plan, the United Nations SPIDER for 2010 should continue with the establishment of regional offices for the purpose of making use of experience existing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

GRULAC would like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its support in the context of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas and the holding in Ecuador of a Workshop on Policy and Legislation in Space Climate Change and Food

Security, which was held on 25 and 26 May 2010, bringing together experts from Latin America, North America and Europe and also for the support provided in the context of the third Ecuador meeting of the Expert Group Meeting of the CEEA and the Troika(?) which was held on 27 and 28 May.

We are pleased to note the announcement made by the Government of Mexico in July 2009 in respect of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas in the months of October and November of the present year and once the Conference is brought to an end, they will be hosting the Pro Tempore Secretariat as well.

In July 2006, this was done in promotion of the full understanding and application of science and technology. We would like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its support in terms of organizing the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas.

Furthermore, GRULAC shares the view that the non-governmental organizations participating in sessions of COPUOS as permanent observers is a good thing as an example of plurality and the participation of societies in aspects that relate to space activities. However, this Regional Group is of the view that in consistency with other entities and subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and full compliance with the norms and principles that apply to institutions, this Committee must, of course, go with the usual guidelines, as contained in resolution 1996/31 of ECOSOC in such a manner as to make sure that these organizations are properly supervised and also to check their linkage in terms of the activities of this Committee and their links to the particular interests for which their authorization has been established.

By way of conclusion, Sir, GRULAC would categorically reiterate the request of the Secretariat to, as of the present date, have the statements of the Group reflected fully in the COPUOS records as a group of States of Latin America and the Caribbean GRULAC and not as other delegations because of the regional nature that we intend to give to the deliberations in international fora.

Finally, on behalf of GRULAC, we declare our readiness to make a productive contribution to our deliberations and full success for the overall session.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Costa Rica for her statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Ms. Z. ZERARA(?)** (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Chair. Ambassador Feroukhi was in the room but she had to leave because she had another commitment so on her behalf I am going to be making the following statement. She is speaking as the Chair of the Group of 77 and China.

Chairman, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to present to you my warmest congratulations upon your election to the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the biennium 2010-2011 and I would like to assure you of our cooperation to both you and the other members of the Bureau and I would like to wish the best in the discharge of your mandate.

I would also like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs with Ms. Mazlan Othman at its head for the preparation of the documentation as well as the organization of this present session.

I would like to pay tribute now to your predecessor, Ambassador Arévalo Yepes, for his very wise chairmanship of the Committee throughout the biennium and for his initiative towards a United Nations Space Policy which will be presented to this session of the Committee and which is in direct line with the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/86 entitled "International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space".

In concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to express the support of the Group of 77 and of China with regard to the application of Tunisia to join the Committee as a full-fledged member and we hope that this request on the part of Tunisia will be approved during this session of the Committee.

Thank you very much.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Zimbabwe, Her Excellency Ms. Mutandiro, on behalf of the African Group.

**Ms. G. T. MUTANDIRO** (Zimbabwe): Thank you Chair. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the

African Group in Vienna, I would like first of all to congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the fifty-third session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are confident, Mr. Chairman, that given your experience and diplomatic skills, you shall successfully spearhead the work of the Committee to greater heights.

The African Group in Vienna wishes to inform you, as well as all the esteemed members of the Committee, of its full support for the candidature of the Republic of Tunisia to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Tunisia has made notable strides in all fields, particularly in the application of advanced technology for its economic development. The Group is thus convinced that as a member of COPUOS, Tunisia would contribute to the enhancement and the promotion of the work of the Organization.

Mr. Chairman, the African Group hopes that all members of the Committee will support Tunisia and grant their full support to its candidature.

I thank you.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Egypt, Ms. Heba Negm, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement Group.

**Ms. H. NEGM** (Egypt): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, on behalf of the Egyptian delegation, let me warmly congratulate you as well as the members of the Bureau, on the newly declared posts. We wish you, Mr. President, all the best in the presidency of this Committee.

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates, on its capacity as the chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement Group in Vienna, Egypt would like to show the full support to the candidature of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. And from this fifty-third session, we would like, Mr. Chairperson, to declare the endorsement of the candidate of Tunisia by the Non-Aligned Movement here in Vienna as a full-fledged member to this Committee. We are sure that Tunisia will contribute significantly to the proceedings of this Committee.

Mr. Chairperson, let me seize this opportunity to reiterate Egypt's support to the work of this Committee.

I thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Egypt.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Japan, Dr. Yasushi Horikawa.

**Mr. Y. HORIKAWA** (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates. I am delighted to make a statement on behalf of the Japanese delegation. My name is Yasushi Horikawa, Technical Counsellor of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA.

I would like to extend our heartfelt welcome to the new Chair and Vice-Chairs, Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu, Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja and Ambassador Raimundo González.

I would like to also express our sincere gratitude to former Bureau members, especially Ambassador Arévalo, as well as to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and her able and devoted staff for their untiring efforts in preparing this session of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman, at a time when the importance and the expectations of COPUOS are ever-increasing, we have once again gathered here in Vienna, humbled by the tasks before us and mindful of the progress made by our predecessors. As everyone present knows, as more nations and private sector initiatives have embarked upon space activities, the more diversified space activities have become. Now we are in an area of space utilization. Space assets and applications are needed, not only for ensuring economic and social activities and safety and security on Earth, but also in dealing with issues such as environmental matters and natural disasters.

COPUOS is the sole venue where the widest range of nations and experts may meet and share information, insights and experiences, ensure transparency and promote mutual confidence, thereby seeking common ground on a range of different concerns.

Before addressing Japanese space-related issues, Japan would like to express its sincere hope that the Republic of Korea will successfully launch its DREAM, a science and technology satellite, via their own space launch vehicle. We would also like to convey our respect for all members' efforts to this end.

Mr. Chairman, Japan has recently experienced a change of Government Party. However, our Basic Space Law, enacted in 2008, was a Partisan(?) Bill and the Basic Principle of this Law has not been changed by the new Government.

In May, the new Administration selected several space development issues to assign priority status and, to this end, decided to create a greater focus on their implementation. The main points are to sustain the autonomy of our space development to adjust the circumstances of space application including the development of legal systems.

In addition, building the capacity of experts in space-emerging countries via technical aid and to provide a package of post-space equipment and services to those countries, is also one of the Administration's priorities.

In the field of space exploration and human space development, Japan is considering building a Moon Base somewhere between 2015 and 2020 with the aid of advanced Japanese robots, while also considering an extension of the operation of the ISS after 2016. Japan will conclude the deliberations on this by this summer.

Mr. Chairman, Japan is promoting international cooperation in the utilization of space technology in various fields. Today, I would like to introduce three of them, just briefly, and we will explain the details of them in our statement at the technical presentation during each agenda item.

First, let me touch upon our activities in the field of space science. From May to June, a number of significant events are taking place in terms of Japanese space exploration. In fact, for us, it would not be an exaggeration to doubt(?) this space science mass. The 21 May saw the launches of both the Venus Explorer, AKATSUKI, and the Space Yacht, IKAROS, which uses sunlight to cruise through space. The mission of IKAROS is to demonstrate a technology which enables it to cruise through space using only its sun sail and the immense capacity of thin-film solar cells for the first time in history. This is an ambitious project which enables us to obtain typical(?) technology that is essential for the geographical discovery in the solar systems. These two explorers are currently on their way to Venus and are sure to inspire a lot of dreams and create some surprises for us.

After the last session of COPUOS, the Japanese Experiment Module, KIBO, was successfully

built. Since last December, the Japanese Astronaut, Soichi Noguchi, had been working on a long-stay mission in the ISS. On 2 June, he successfully returned from the ISS after a five and a half months stay and with a great amount of results and data collected in the experiments.

In addition, in April, Ms. Naoko Yamazaki, another Japanese astronaut, was on board a Space Shuttle to the ISS during Mr. Noguchi's stay. Now is the time when Japanese astronauts are in space during the major part of a year.

The largest event during the Japan space science mounts(?) is the return to Earth of the asteroid explorer, HAYABUSA, from the asteroid Itokawa. The re-entry of HAYABUSA is scheduled on 13 of this month, this coming Sunday. It overcame a number of difficulties and after a seven-year trip through space, will re-enter at Woomera, in Australia, with support from both Australia and the United States. A round-trip of this kind between other celestial bodies has not been achieved since the Apollo Mission. The HAYABUSA is eagerly anticipated by people all over the world, particularly for the samples that HAYABUSA is carrying from the surface of Itokawa.

These space science and technology endeavours are not only an enhancement of our most advanced scientific and technological bases, but also an investment in future generations dreams and hopes.

Second, it is also important that space assets contribute to the solutions of global issues. For example, in the event of a natural disaster somewhere on Earth, the Advanced Land Observing Satellite, DAICHI, can provide urgently needed images of the area to the affected countries. The data captured by DAICHI was also recently provided to Brazil and Indonesia and utilized in the effective monitoring of illegal logging and forest carbon tracking and track the rainforest.

To confirm this trial, at a meeting among Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation, called FELAC, Japan announced that, together with Brazil, we will invite trainees from Asia, Latin America and other regions to Brazil and provide them with training on monitoring illegal logging by using images taken by DAICHI based on the current cooperation. This is only one example which proves that space assets are significant for solving global issues.

Moreover, we have begun to provide the data captured by the satellite called IBUKI which observes

the concentration distribution of greenhouse gases to the general public. This data can contribute to global planning for the using of greenhouse gases.

Also when the recent air traffic panic occurred due to the eruption of the Icelandic volcano, IBUKI observed the volcano and provided data to the United Kingdom for monitoring its ash plumes.

Sir, as a regional effort on the basis of accommodativeness and \_\_\_\_\_ism(?), the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, or APRSAF, will hold its seventeenth anniversary this year. Space applications needs are extremely various from country to country and it is with this in mind that APRSAF was created as an open forum for every nation to be able to participate and thus achieve many initiatives such as the Sentinel-Asia Project. In this regard, APRSAF can be seen as a regional space cooperation model for the rest of the world also.

Finally, at this point, on a personal note, let me congratulate Mr. Doi, my long-time friend, for his good services as one of the four(?) staff members of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. He has been to outer space twice and made various contributions to space exploration as a Japanese astronaut before he joined the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. As compatriots, I am pleased to see him serving for the entire space community.

In conclusion, Japan would like to reaffirm its commitment to further contribution to COPUOS in various aspects, including science and technology, innovation and also by providing competent personnel.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Japan. Let me congratulate also Mr. Takao Doi, my space colleague, and I am very glad to work together here at COPUOS.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of China, His Excellency Ambassador Xiaodi Hu.

**Mr. X. HU** (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Mr. Chairman, please allow me on behalf of the Chinese delegation to congratulate you and the new Bureau on your elections. The Chinese delegation will, as always, actively participate in the various tasks before the session of COPUOS, carry out in-depth exchange of views and close cooperation with all delegations in a common effort to contribute to the success of the current session.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese Government has consistently followed the principle of a harmonious outer space and is committed to building an outer space for peace, equality and cooperation. We remain committed to the idea that all activities aimed at exploring and utilizing outer space should bring benefits to the whole of humankind. All countries, large or small, strong or weak, should have the right to peacefully use outer space. We are opposed to the weaponization of an arms race in outer space. We are willing to work to ensure the peaceful use of outer space and to strengthen international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space so that advances in space technology will benefit all countries.

Mr. Chairman, the past year has witnessed in China substantial progress in outer space exploration, a manned space programme and satellite technologies, as well as Chinese new contributions to the common cause of humankind in the exploration of outer space.

A week ago, on 2 June, we successfully launched the fourth COMPASS Navigation Satellite. This marks yet another important step in the network building of the COMPASS Satellite Navigation System as well as steady progress in the build-up of space infrastructure.

Substantial progress has also been made in the construction and consolidation of the remote sensing satellite ground system making information resources increasingly abundant. The wide application of space technology in economic development and in the daily life in society has greatly improved people's living.

Advanced space technology has been applied in the development of environmentally-friendly new clean (nuclear?) energy, new products development as well as seed breeding in agriculture.

Space-derived data and geographic information are also widely applied for sustainable development in all area. Space technology is playing an irreplaceable role in the social and economic progress in China.

Mr. Chairman, while developing its own programme, China is also actively carrying out international exchange and cooperation in outer space, paying special attention to capacity-building in developing countries.

During the current session of COPUOS, the Host Country Agreement for the United Nations SPIDER Beijing Office will be formally signed which

will mark a new milestone in the cooperation between the Chinese Government and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The Chinese Government will continue to support the work of the Beijing Office to promote international cooperation and capacity-building in the field of disaster reduction by means of space technologies.

On 29 May, the IAA/China Research Centre was inaugurated and the first international seminar was held on cooperation in global environmental impacts. The IAA/China Research Centre will support the administration of academic research by IAA research groups throughout the world, building the Centre into a platform for international space exchange and cooperation to enhance the communication and exchange among space experts from all countries.

From 31 May to 3 June, the China Aerospace Association and the International Astronautical Federation co-sponsored the first World Moon Conference in Beijing. Experts from 26 countries and regions held extensive discussions on issues such as life science and manned lunar landing. The Conference facilitated the exchanges on technologies, resources and exploration findings. As we speak, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China is co-sponsoring with APSCO a two-week long training course on "The Global Navigation Satellite System and its Applications", which is a training session for member States on satellite navigation and application technologies. As of now, China is ready to work further openly and responsibly with all countries and with development countries in particular for practical cooperations in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, the legislative development in outer space is an important guarantee for a harmonious outer space. Even though the existing outer space legal regime plays an important role in regulating the space activities of all countries, maintaining order in space and promoting space cooperation, it is still not sufficient neither to prevent the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space nor is it adequate to effectively cope with issues of space environment issues such as space debris. Hence, the way towards legislative development in outer space remains long and arduous. Without prejudice to the existing legal framework, the Chinese Government supports and actively advocates the conclusion of a comprehensive legal instrument through negotiations so as to maintain peace and tranquillity in outer space, find solutions to the new problems encountered in the exploration and use of outer space and promote legislative development



to build a harmonious outer space. We believe that COPUOS will continue to have an important role to play in this process.

Mr. Chairman, space exploration is a great endeavour for humankind. The spirit of incessant exploration thus engendered is a most treasured spiritual asset of humankind. While continuing her exploration into the deep and vast outer space, China is ready to make unremitting efforts, together with the international community, and makes its due contributions towards building an outer space in harmony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Italy, His Excellency Ambassador Giannia Ghisi.

**Mr. G. GHISI** (Italy): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me join previous speakers in congratulating you, as well as the members of your Bureau, on your election for 2009-2010 (2010-2011?). Your professional skills and experience will certainly steer our debate towards fruitful conclusions. I wish to assure you of the full support of the Italian delegation.

I take this opportunity also to thank Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes and congratulate him for the outstanding manner he conducted his chairmanship.

I also thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Mazlan Othman, and her staff, for the excellent preparation of this session and for their commitment in conducting the mandated activities.

Mr. Chairman, the peaceful use of outer space is pivotal in the Italian Space Policy. We are, therefore, strongly committed in supporting the crucial role of the United Nations COPUOS in achieving this goal. In fulfilling its mandate of promoting ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful uses, the United Nations COPUOS provides a unique opportunity for fostering global, interregional and regional dialogue and cooperation. As a valuable forum where to exchange best practices and define possible confidence-building measures in the framework of the fundamental United Nations space treaties, COPUOS has proved to be very fruitful. In

this respect, let me just mention two examples of particular interest for my country: the United Nations Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources Application adopted at the last session. We would now expect further successful results with respect to the draft International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.

Since the creation of the Committee 50 years ago, after the launching of the first artificial satellite, so many developments in space science and technology have occurred. Many States have acquired the capacity of launching satellites and many applications have been developed for the peaceful use of space technologies. It is natural, therefore, that member States start reflecting on the adequacy at this stage of the United Nations Policy Framework for the Peaceful Use of Outer Space and now the COPUOS future role and activities.

In this respect, I believe that the Working Paper A/AC.105/L.278 entitled "Towards a United Nations Space Policy" offers a valuable contribution of ideas to be further elaborated and developed. My delegation looks forward with keen interest to the discussion that the Committee will have on the future role and activities of COPUOS under agenda item 16, Other Matters, taking also into account the Working Paper elaborated by your predecessor, Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes. Probably the very ambitious goal of the United Nations Space Policy is, at this stage, distant in time. However, the document provides excellent food for thought, deserving in-depth analysis and discussions also in other United Nations fora. But I can certainly agree with the General Assembly, paragraph 35, of its 64/86 resolution, "appreciation of such an initiative seeking a holistic approach for enhancing coordination between member States and the United Nations system in applying space science and technology to meet the challenges, development of all countries and to further promote and strengthen the use of space technology and its application in the United Nations system.

While reserving my position on the overall content and main objectives of the Working Document towards United Nations Space Policy since we need more time to study it, let me single out, not in an exhaustive manner, some ideas that we find very pertinent for our general exchange of views.

First, the need of enhancing coordination between member States and the United Nations system in applying space science and technology to meet the challenge to development the world's countries is to

further promote and strengthen the use of space technology its application.

Second, the idea that United Nations agencies could employ space assets on an even larger scale and in a more efficient manner to support its activities policies, space should, therefore, be more prominently reflected in the United Nations world conferences.

Third, the need for an integrated international and interregional approach to space activities.

Fourth, the proposal that member States strengthen COPUOS' capacity to facilitate access to technical cooperation for the relevant countries, particularly on the establishment of their own space policies.

As I mentioned, it is not an exhaustive list but I wanted to stress some very interesting points.

Mr. Chairman, one recommendation of the Working Document, we can fully subscribe right now, is the need to improve the coordination among the many bodies, international, regional and national, involved in the use of outer space. To achieve this goal, we are convinced that the COPUOS has a crucial role to play within its existing mandate. Italy welcomed as a first step into this direction, the recent establishment of the Group of 15 as a mechanism to advise the Secretary-General on matters related to space development, recognizing that the peaceful uses of outer space needed a strong platform within the United Nations system and to encourage the Group to develop this task, keeping the member States regularly informed.

At the same time, we believe that streamlining the work of COPUOS and of its Subcommittees, could be instrumental to enhancing its central role in the United Nations system. The member States are becoming more and more aware of this need. In fact, one of the Legal Subcommittees several delegations voiced the need for a more efficient and cost-effective work of the two COPUOS Subcommittees. The last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee mandated the Secretariat to adopt rationalizing measures and the Committee at the fifty-second session asked the Group of 15 to consider how to rationalize and optimize use of the time of COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies.

Italy looks forward with expectations to the report of the Group of 15 on the findings and to the discussion thereon under agenda item 16, Other Matters.

Without anticipating a discussion on agenda item 16, I would like, however, to state that the streamlining of COPUOS activities, combined with the future of COPUOS' role and activities, would deserve a more adequate place \_\_\_\_\_(?) in the Committee's future session's agenda.

Mr. Chairman, another issue in which Italy would like to see a stronger role of COPUOS is the promotion of universal accession and adherence to the international treaties and principles on the peaceful uses of outer space. We also believe that COPUOS could take a lead in facilitating the harmonization of a domestic and international legal framework relating to outer space.

The involvement of new space-faring countries worldwide in outer space activities and the widening of outer space applications met more and more pressing the need of universal adherence to the United Nations treaties to preserve, advance and guarantee the exploration and the peaceful use of outer space, not to mention the need to respond to the growing concern of an international community on preventing outer space from becoming an area of conflict.

These are more reasons for enhancing the role of COPUOS in promoting international and inter-agency coordination.

Mr. Chairman, space-based systems provide critical inputs to address many changes of the twenty-first century, such as monitoring and better understanding of the climate change and of global warming. They also stimulate scientific, industrial and economic development. Italy firmly believes that COPUOS gives an important contribution to improve all States capabilities to access the benefits of the peaceful use of outer space in terms of sustainable development. Italy is, therefore, in favour of strengthening COPUOS' capacity to facilitate the access to technical cooperation for developing countries.

The promotion of regional and interregional cooperation has an important place in the Italian space activities in the conviction that international cooperation plays a major role in enhancing the peaceful uses of space technologies.

In this connection, let me just mention three important events that Italy will host: the Sixtieth EUMETSAT Congress in Rome in June; the International Congress on Navigation in October this

year in Turin; as well as the Sixty-Third International Astronautic Congress in Naples in 2012.

Due to the importance that Italy attaches to international cooperation on climate change, we are happy that space and climate change has become a regular item in the COPUOS agenda. As an example of the Italian engagement, let me just mention ROSA, Radio Occultation Instrument, that the Italian Space Agency is applying for prevention and assessment of the impact of climate change. ROSA is onboard of the Indian OCEANSAT-II and will be onboard of the Argentina SAC-D AQUARIUS Mission, beginning next year.

The main scientific application of the data collected by ROSA are in the field of meteorology, climatology, atmospheric studies and solid Earth physics.

Earth observation is another sector of international cooperation where Italy is evermore present and ahead of times in particular with a very well-known COSMO-SKYMED observation system that has proved to be extremely useful in the prevention and management of many natural disasters lately, in Haiti and Chile.

Italy is fully committed in space debris mitigation and detection as we are convinced that international cooperation may prevent major accidents in space such as the one happened in February 2008 and others occurred in 2009. The Italian Space Agency is already actively cooperating with several sister agencies and we start soon new collaboration in this field with Argentina.

As to the capacity-building, among the ongoing programmes, I wish to mention the 20 projects for Argentine and Kenyan Young Scientists that the Italian Space Agency is carrying on in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Master on Navigation-Related Applications at the Turin University Politecnico, supported by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. The Master provides an extensive background in navigation localization systems as well as a detailed analysis of Nav-Com integration and environmental monitoring applications. In the last five years since its opening, the course trained 91 students coming from developing countries, among them 17 women.

Mr. Chairman, concerning space and education, we particularly welcomed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that the issue of promoting a greater

participation of young people in space science and technology be considered under the agenda item "Space and Society" in this session.

I am proud to say that some students of the Master Course in Space Institutions and Policies are part of the Italian delegation and that a dozen of others are attending with a lot of interest this session.

Mr. Chairman, Italy believes the sustainability of outer space exploration activities is a matter of concern for space-faring nations and regional space organizations, as well as for commercial satellite operators. Only clear common cooperation mechanisms among the countries and in particular among COPUOS member States could make space activities in Earth orbit more sustainable over the long term.

The Italian experts are keen to participate in the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities which was set up during the last Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Martinez from South Africa, in order to work to the identification of its Work Plan and Terms of Reference. We are very pleased to see that the first meeting of the Working Group will convene during this session of the Committee. I would like to encourage member States to be ambitious in defining the Working Group mandate. In this connection, allow me to reiterate that the best practices to be adopted by any spacecraft operator against our kind of nature or the official(?) risk in space and international platform on space objects should be included among the topics to be addressed by the Working Group.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to conclude with two invitations, to you and to all delegates. On behalf of the Italian Space Agency, I am pleased to invite you to visit our exhibition in the Rotunda on the Italian contribution to space exploration.

My second invitation is to attend next Thursday, at 6.15 p.m., the presentation that the President of the Italian Space Agency will offer on "Italy: Space Exploration". You will find more details in the Journal but let me anticipate that the participation of an Italian astronaut, whom I am honoured to have as a member of my delegation, will offer us a unique opportunity to share the emotions of human space exploration.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of Italy, Ambassador Ghisi.

Now I want to give the floor to Ambassador Raimundo González, my Vice-Chairman, but at the same time, as a representative of Chile, for making some declarations on behalf of our Committee on some organizational matters concerning the COPUOS and its G15. Please Ambassador.

**Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT** (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you so much Mr. Chairperson. First, I must confess that it is very difficult to be up there and I am not going to make a statement. The only thing I cannot resist is temptation. Anything else I can resist. It is obvious, of course, that I would like to congratulate you on assuming your functions. I have known you for a long time and I am absolutely convinced that you would be doing a sterling job as my predecessor, your predecessor I meant to say, Ambassador Arévalo, and I would already like to thank him here and now for his words of thanks. I very much hope that they will be able to grapple with this upstairs.

There are two or three elements in the context of what you said that I would like to have perfectly clear and that should also be reflected in the report.

We have a central line here that we find in the various declarations made and statements. It started in a modest fashion with a very good presentation made in due time by the Chairperson of the Committee, Ambassador Arévalo, then and it referred to the United Nations Space Policy. Virtually all statements made reference to this and I would like to say that we cooperated with this Policy.

At the last Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we made some modest contributions but they were contributions. Unfortunately we were not able to continue with our participation at the Legal Subcommittee because of the disaster that had such impact in Chile, the earthquake, but we have always done our utmost to cooperate in terms of this excellent idea. And yet again, we would like to join in and believe along with the representative of Italy that we need time to give this our consideration. But sometimes if you give too much time and thought to a matter, you are surprised by events and diplomacy should be preventive in nature after all. And if I may make this analogy, Sir, in 1999, we had the adoption of the International Charter that applies to natural disasters in the wake of UNISPACE III and in 2006, we had adoption in the General Assembly of the United Nations SPIDER and this was a form of

preventive diplomacy in respect of the natural disasters that have an impact on my country and on Haiti and that could well be repeated.

I think that the framework that we find within the United Nations Space Policy should be dealt with in a preventive manner. It should be taken on board to do work upstream and not to regret the fact that we do not have access to fundamental information that UNESCO have defined as the main resource is grey matter and grey matter means information and information implies strategic information and know-how.

But here, I would like to refer in the context that you have defined to the excellent statement made by the representative of Italy. I was listening carefully. It had to do with the Group of 15 and the work that needs to be done and I read in English in the text I have here ... (*continued in English*) "... to advise the Secretary-General on matters related to space and development ..." etc. ... (*continued in Spanish*) and so on and so forth.

It is obvious that the Group of 15 in order to fully discharge its duties, and it is my understanding that it will be taken as a mechanism, that is advisory in nature, it advises the Secretary-General of the United Nations without prejudice to what COPUOS, as an autonomous body of the Assembly, may decide. We need to have this bridge leading on to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and here I would like to explicitly say a statement was made by the Ambassador of Italy, that otherwise we will continue to act more or less on an island which is the fact that COPUOS decides and this is then converted into a resolution of the General Assembly, does not necessarily mean that it is borne in mind by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In this respect, I would like to recall two mandates that were given in the last resolution of the General Assembly, one, to the United Nations University and another to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. And, thus far, to my knowledge, we have not had feedback in respect of the implementation thereof. That is why in the context and in the framework that you have given us, I do underline this. We need to devote a lot of attention to the Group of 15 to make sure that the mandates that appear in an independent fashion from COPUOS and that are then taken up by the General Assembly, maybe fully implemented.

The Group of 15 has the enormous interest and virtue of giving all members of COPUOS an occasion to be represented there. This Group is

equitable, the principle of equality is given effective form there, there is no discrimination of any sort and the geographical groups rotate in keeping with a system established and negotiated then by Ambassador Walther Lichem of Austria and I would like to pay tribute to him here and now because we were able to go beyond a problem that was very complex that meant imbalance, not only in technological terms, but also in terms of our ability to negotiate and, therefore, I would like to particularly highlight the excellent statement made by the distinguished representative of Italy and all the aspects that relate to the United Nations Space Policy.

Thank you Sir.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Ambassador Raimundo González.

Maybe we will have more discussion during this session regarding the mechanisms of promoting space activities including the attributions of this internal body of COPUOS, the main G15.

My next speaker on the list is Mr. Osama Ammar from the Syrian Arab Republic.

**Mr. O. AMMAR** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you very much Chairman. It is indeed a pleasure for me to most sincerely congratulate you upon your election to the Chair of this Committee at this session. And I would also like to present my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. And I would also like to thank your predecessor, Mr. Arévalo Yepes, for the efforts that he has made over the last two sessions.

I would also like to thank Ms. Mazlan Othman, the Head of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as all the other members of the Office for their excellent preparation of this meeting.

In Syria, through our Remote Sensing Agency, we seek to indeed exploit this data within the work of this Committee in order to make available this data for the development of technology and for environmental protection. In this context, both internally as well as internationally with other organizations and States, we have organized various activities focusing on training, for example, jointly with UNESCO, in order to ensure the transfer of these technologies to future generations.

We have also organized other activities within the context and mandate of the Committee and these

we will be presenting to you as we go through the agenda item by item.

We would like to state once again that we believe that the Committee should indeed fulfil its main task of ensuring the peaceful uses and applications of outer space and should support States needing these technologies to gain access to them and make use of them, especially in the field of coping with natural disasters, droughts, *inter alia*, for which we are paying a steep price without being the major cause of these in any way.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of Tunisia in this regard. They are very active in ensuring the peaceful exploration of outer space and its use of its technologies. They, indeed, have launched cartographic mapping efforts which must be paid tribute to and this on the basis of bilateral and multilateral efforts and they have the African Headquarters for these efforts in this field. They are also very active internationally. We believe that Tunisia's joining the fold of this Committee would be very precious indeed and for this reason, we would like to fully support their candidature.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Syria for his statement because he pointed out the importance of Tunisia as being a member of our Committee.

Yet as an observer, Tunisia has now the floor through the world of His Excellency Mr. Ali Chaouch.

**Mr. A. CHAOUCH** (Tunisia) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed an honour for me to present on behalf of Tunisia, our statement as follows and I am very happy to see that Tunisia is participating in this fifty-third session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a country that has been invited.

And I would like to thank Mr. Ciro Arévalo Yepes, the outgoing Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for his major input into the work of our Committee.

I would also like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Chair of this Committee. You indeed have excellent competence, outstanding experience and indeed States respect the above-mentioned qualities and this certainly is going to be guaranteeing the success of our meetings.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs has made it possible for us to adapt our work in the various bodies of the Committee, to participate in the work of this Committee, we have had very interesting potential afforded us and thus we have been able to participate in all of the work done. In Tunisia, we have been able to indeed properly channel our efforts for the application for membership to the Committee. Our President, indeed, has taken a decision to apply for membership because he indeed feels that our country could play a very important role within the United Nations in particular in respect to the strengthening of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Chairman, I would like very proudly to state that the Republic of Tunisia indeed is applying for membership with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are officially applying and this in order to very strongly signal that we intend to very actively participate in achieving the goals of this Committee and this on the basis with very fruitful cooperation with all the States in this Committee.

Our country is very interested in the peaceful uses of outer space and this from the very beginning of the launch of the first satellite in 1957 and we would like to reiterate our attachment to the achievement of the goals set by UNISPACE III and our determination to participate with the work of this Committee in advancing outer space science and technology.

And we have demonstrated our interest in practical levels indeed. We have set up in 1988 a Centre for Remote Sensing, *inter alia*, and as regards the use of space technologies, our National Commission for Outer Space Activities in Tunisia is working to propose implementation of procedures to ensure environmental management seeking to strengthen international cooperation with proper training of staff in these fields and to ensure proper research and development in industrial and agricultural fields, and this on the basis of space-generated data.

We are also ensuring the operations of the National Mapping Centre engaging in activities to enable us to use geographical sat-based mapping capabilities. Among the task accomplished by this Centre, is the following. We work with satellite remote sensing data to collect data, to archive this data, store it and make use of it for the studies and for the achievement of socio-economicals. We also are seeking to organize the geomatics sector. We are working also and have had a very active role in organizing ARABSAT activities. We have

participated in various international meetings and this has resulted in our country's ratifying three out of the five international conventions, the Treaty of 1967 on the Principles Governing the Activities of States and the Exploration and Use of Outer Space Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, as well as secondly the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, as well as thirdly the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

The scientific associations of Tunisia were interested in this very precious participation in spite of our limited resources and we have participated in the activities of the International Academy of Astronautics, as well as the International Space Law Institute Activities. We have been involved in the development of remote learning, tele-health and other space technology applications as well.

Our participation is modest. However, we are sincerely determined to work in the context of international cooperation in order to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space. Our country is ready to encourage national players in developing an ambitious national programme for the development of space and we are determined to effectively participate in all international events on outer space and to strengthen international partnership and cooperation with regional and international organizations and associations in this field. We intend to continue our cooperation with COPUOS in all its activities.

To conclude, Chairman, I would like to express my thanks and to pay tribute to all those States which have expressed their support for Tunisia's membership, as a full-fledged member in this Committee. We intend to work in full cooperation with them to achieve the goals of this Committee.

I wish you the best for the discharge of your mandate.

Thank you very much.

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

The next speaker on my list is Mr. Ahmed Obaid Al-Mansoori representing, also an observer member, the United Arab Emirates.

**Mr. A. O. AL-MANSOORI** (United Arab Emirates): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates and

representatives, on behalf of the United Arab Emirates delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your chairmanship of the Committee and I would like to emphasize what my colleagues that your chairmanship and leadership would add value to the Committee and to its success and progress.

I would also like to thank you and distinguished guests, the distinguished representatives, for giving the United Arab Emirates the floor here today to address this fifty-third convening of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Affairs.

The United Arab Emirates has been active in space for nearly 15 years and the spectrum of these activities is quite wide, from commercial satellites and communications satellites to space conference, scientific satellites to space research. We would like to say that the United Arab Emirates is rapidly expanding in this field in the region.

Our presence here today as observers highlights the desire of our Government to communicate and cooperate with nations of the world in the peaceful use of outer space and it also highlights our desire to become active in this Committee in the future.

The United Arab Emirates, an emerging space nation, is interested in growing its own talent and expanding its capabilities to find further avenues of peaceful cooperation with the nations of the world for peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, I would like now to focus on what the United Arab Emirates has achieved in the last 15 years in the space industry.

In terms of the communication satellites, THURAYA, our satellite company was founded in 1997 and has launched three United States-made satellites since then. THURAYA has subscribers, more than 300,000 in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Australasia.

One out of them is \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*). This project has gone a long way in terms of developing the skills of United Arab Emirates nationals and other capabilities in the region in this field. Some of the services that THURAYA provides a Wireless Voice Communication, Internet Services, Short Messages Service and Muslim Prayer Time Services based on GPS location. This commercial venture has been of great benefit, for instance, in many areas, like freer handsets are widely used in the oil and gas

sectors, rural areas without communication connections, mountainous regions and vessels at sea.

Another large commercial communication satellite project is the YASAT(?) Project. Run out of them will be, the YASAT Project will have dual users application(?). The company will launch two European-made satellites. The first and the fourth quarter of 2010 and the second in 2011. YASAT will provide a multitude of services for the Middle East, Africa and South-West Asia. These include broadband internal services to all areas, direct-to-home television service and security connectivity for military and governments.

Mr. Chairman, in 2005, the United Arab Emirates began its first remote sensing satellite programme called the BISAT-1. This programme is run out of the Emirates in Dubai with technology advancement and non-commercial application as its main goals. The BISAT-1 is the first project from the Emirates Institution for Advanced Science Technology. This project has for a model of the most developing nations as adopted, which is a small satellite with a concentration on know-how and technology transfer. Nations such as Malaysia, Nigeria, Algeria and others have successfully started their space programmes on similar projects.

The main goal for this BISAT series was the start of the development of national and regional space industry and the building of the local capabilities to better serve the United Arab Emirates region and the world. The BISAT-1 was launched in mid-2009 and the images have been used in different university research programmes, town planning, commercial construction and environmental applications.

The next project will be the BISAT-2 which is being designed jointly with \_\_\_\_\_(?) technicians from South Korea. The plan for this project is to develop one of the best satellites in its weight class.

The Emirates Institution for Advanced Science Technology is also planning to develop satellite assembly, integration and testing facilities in the near future. These facilities will be used for the integration of the Institute's third satellite and others. The main objective of this initiative will be to build local and regional capabilities for design and development of satellites.

Mr. Chairman, from today's statement, I wanted to give an overview of the space activities of the United Arab Emirates activities in the space sector that we will be increasing in the next decade in

accordance with our established Country Plan which are in line with international agreements and conventions on the peaceful use of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, thank you very much for your time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the United Arab Emirates for his statement.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under the general exchange of views at this morning's meeting? We still have a few minutes.

The distinguished representative of Bolivia.

**Mr. P. MARCA PACO** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. My statement is not an official statement and that is why I am not on the list. I would merely like to reiterate to the Committee and member States that I bring to their attention information that was given to the Office for Outer Space Affairs on 20 April 2010 on the following fact.

Bolivia, in the Supreme Decree 435 of 10 February 2010, this year, therefore, has set up a Bolivian Space Agency, AVE, with a special interest in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes to promote social development, economic, technological development and furthermore environmental protection throughout its territory. The Bolivian Space Agency will have as its main purpose the discussed implementation of the communication satellite. TUPA KATARI is the name of the project. The name is that of an indigenous leader who was beheaded in the colonial times, in the four directions of the Universe and that is why we have selected the name.

The Bolivian Space Agency that has a legal domicile in La Paz will be making operations within and beyond our borders. The Bolivian Space Agency is at this point in time headed by an Executive Director who has full authority. The main purpose is negotiating and entering into treaties and agreements to implement the plans, projects and policies of the Bolivian Plurinational State in terms of the peaceful uses of outer space and in the context of legislation that we have in force.

We have an Agency to approve national plans and projects. The main purpose of this Unit is to propose development policies for the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. At

this point in time, the main Board of the Agency is being set up for that purpose.

The TUPAC KATARI project will be implemented but there are other responsibilities for this body, promoting the development of new satellite and space projects, transfer of technology and training of human resources in space-related activities and the promotion of implementation of satellite uses for social production, defence, environmental projects and the like, all within the context of the peaceful use of outer space.

Finally, I would like to point out that the Bolivian Space Agency is being set up and organized and the relevant authorities will be informed once specific activities are undertaken in the context of the mandate established in this legal statute.

Thank you Sir.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Bolivia for his intervention and let me congratulate Bolivia for establishing a Space Agency and for the new proposed programmes to evolve with regard to space activities.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Burkina Faso.

**Ms. B. SANOU ALI** (Burkina Faso) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Chairman. Along with the other delegations, I would like to congratulate you sincerely upon your election to the Chair of the fifty-third session of the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space and ensure you of our full cooperation.

I would also like to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Yepes, for the quality of his work during his mandate in the Committee.

We would also like to thank the members of the Bureau as well as the Secretariat for having made available all our working documents in time and at such a high level.

Burkina Faso indeed would like to support the application for membership on the part of Tunisia. This country is already doing so much significant work in using space technologies for peaceful purposes that I think that they can but significantly contribute even more as a full-fledged member.

Thank you.



**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Burkina Faso for her intervention.

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak at this morning's session?

The United Kingdom, you have the floor.

**Ms. L. KEYTE** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I had indeed originally indicated that I would be willing to speak this afternoon but I believe that as we still have time in this session, it is most sensible for States to be flexible and make use of the time we have available when agenda items are open.

Mr. Chairman, it is, of course, a great pleasure to see you presiding over this meeting of COPUOS and we are confident that with your experience and insight, we will make progress at this meeting on a range of important issues that confront us.

We would like to take this opportunity also to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs Secretariat for all their hard work in preparing for this meeting.

We are pleased to confirm that the United Kingdom's Space Agency was launched on 1 April 2010. The new agency replaces the British National Space Centre and brings together for the first time a range of United Kingdom space activities under one single management, hopefully to enhance efficiencies and improve strategic decision-making.

In addition, the United Kingdom is establishing a new £40 million International Space Innovation Centre, or ISIC, at Harwell, which is the heart of Government plans to support Britain's growing Space Centre. The ISIC is sited within the ESA facility opened in July 2009 providing a hub for British space. Funded through both public and industry investment, the ISIC is establishing Centres of Excellence in the United Kingdom to exploit the data generated by Earth observation satellites, to use space data to understand and counter climate change and to advise on the security and resilience of space systems and services.

Through the new United Kingdom Space Agency, we look forward to working with our international colleagues in a range of exciting and challenging projects in the years to come.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the new item at COPUOS on the indicative schedule of work relating to the Working

Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

We recognize that space is a unique resource which must be valued and protected and we will work with colleagues within COPUOS to ensure that current best practice becomes future common practice amongst all operators.

We look forward to a useful and productive exchange of views during this current session.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom.

Distinguished delegates, we have fully used the time of this morning's session. We will continue the agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, this afternoon.

I would again like to inform you of our schedule of work of the Committee for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue with agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, and will begin with agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, and agenda item 7, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

At the end of the afternoon meeting, I would like also to invite you cordially to attend a reception hosted by Romania at 6.30 p.m. in the Mozart Room of the VIC Restaurant.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

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

*The meeting adjourned at 12.58 p.m.*