

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript*

625th Meeting
Thursday, 17 June 2010, 3 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Dumitru Dorin PRUNARIU (Romania)

The CHAIRMAN I invite the distinguished delegates to assist at the signing of the agreement between OOSA and China with regard to the opening of the office for SPIDER in Beijing.

Ms. OTHMAN (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs) Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I address you today on the occasion of the signing of the host country agreement between the Government of China and the United Nations which will enable the Office for Outer Space Affairs to open a UN SPIDER office in Beijing.

China has always taken a leading role in the topic of space technology and disaster management within the work of this Committee having co-chaired the work of Action Team 7, then the work of the ad hoc expert group that put forward to this Committee the proposal for the establishment of the UN SPIDER programme as a United Nations programme. China then strongly committed to supporting the implementation of the programme, once it was approved by the United Nations General Assembly, by offering to host a UN SPIDER office in Beijing. Today we take the final step towards this visionary commitment of China. Today's signing of the host country agreement and the subsequent opening of the UN SPIDER office in Beijing marks another landmark in the further development of the UN SPIDER programme, all of this contributing to ensure that collectively we can guarantee that all countries are able to access and use space-based information to support disaster risk management and emergency response.

Please allow me, your Excellency, to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of China for

providing this valuable contribution to the Office for Outer Space Affairs. I thank you very much.

Madam Othman, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. The UN SPIDER Beijing office is an important achievement of the cooperation between the Chinese government and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in the field of space application for disaster prevention and reduction. The signing of the host country agreement of the Beijing office ushers the UN SPIDER programme into a new development stage. Under the background of global climate change, natural disasters occur more frequently and have become the common challenge faced by all countries of the world. China is a country which suffers, from time to time, natural disasters quite severely. The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to international collaboration and cooperation on disaster reduction and prevention. With the signing of the host country agreement we will implement the provisions in the agreement and continue to give effective support to UN SPIDER in funding, techniques and experts. Along with other countries, we are willing to make (____?) of the role of the UN SPIDER Beijing office in propelling and strengthening the capability of all countries in space technology application for disaster management and make a contribution to reducing the loss caused by natural disasters to the world. I thank you all.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Good afternoon, distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 625th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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.



This afternoon we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 14, use of space technology in the United Nations system. One delegation has an intervention.

Agenda item 15, use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development and agenda item 16, other matters and, time permitting, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 17, the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

We have made a (___?) this morning to use our time more efficiently and would like to express our appreciation to the distinguished representative of India for his readiness to make his presentation entitled, Societal Applications of Indian Space Programme: An Update, during the morning meeting of today and, to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation for efficiently delivering his presentation entitled, International Global Monitoring Aerospace System - New Approach to the Disaster Management Issue, also this morning, within a certain time.

We will not have any other technical presentations this afternoon.

This evening all delegations are welcome to the opening of the exhibition, From Heaven to Space, at the premises of the European Space Policy Institute, ESPI, starting at 7 p.m. Invitations have been distributed to all delegations.

Are there any questions or comments to this proposed schedule? I see none.

I would like now to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 14, use of space technology in the United Nations system and I give the floor to Ms. Annetee Froehlich from Germany.

Ms. FROEHLICH (Germany) Mr. President, distinguished delegates, in July 2009 a memorandum of understanding was signed in Geneva between the World Meteorological Organization and the German Aerospace Centre designing the World Data Center for Remote Sensing of the Atmosphere called WDC-RSAT operated by the German Remote Sensing Data Center as an official world data centre of the WMO.

Within the Global Atmosphere Watch programme of WMO it is planned to expand surface-based data by including satellite-based data related to the atmosphere. As a new member of the WMO World Data Centre family this WDC-RSAT will act as a one-stop shop providing access to space-based observations

on the chemical composition of the atmosphere focusing initially on a limited number of parameters, especially ozone and aerosols. This is achieved either by providing access to data stored at the WDC-RSAT or by acting as a portal with links to relevant other satellite data providers.

WDC-RSAT offers (___?) and the general public open and simplified access to a continuously growing collection of atmosphere-related satellite-based datasets, data products and services. Besides data from European missions like ENVISAT, access is provided to appropriate links to nearly all existing satellite-based information on the global atmosphere. (___?) are available online and range from raw data collected by remote sensors to value-added information products derived from the raw data. The current WDC-RSAT data archives contain data and derived information products on trace gases, aerosols, clouds, solar radiation and information related to the surface, such as vegetation cover and land or sea surface temperatures.

Also available are so-called value-added products tailored to the needs of the scientific community, agency, industry and the public sector in general.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, thank you for your kind attention.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the distinguished delegate of Germany for her statement.

We have therefore concluded our consideration of agenda item 14, use of space technology in the United Nations system.

Agenda item 15 will be taken after agenda item 16 as some editorial work is done by the Secretariat.

I would now like to continue consideration of agenda item 16, other matters. We will continue considering the remaining subitems in the following order: terminology for reflecting statements at regional groups.

Is there any delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item?

The distinguished representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the floor..

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) May I, on this occasion, refer to the

Committee on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries, known as GRULAC. So along these lines and in the interest of making headway on these subjects, strengthening cooperation and consensus, the group is suggesting that the views of GRULAC be registered in the introductory statement, general exchange of views and in the introductory paragraph of the substantive items where delegations and observers are identified. We remain available to the Secretariat to seek the most appropriate terminology to reflect this in the final document. It would be possible to do so tomorrow without any problem whatsoever and that would be our suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Venezuela, speaking on behalf of GRULAC. I think it would be applicable to all groups of States of the United Nations.

Are there any objections to the proposal made by Venezuela on behalf of GRULAC?

The distinguished representative of the United States.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America). Mr. Chairman, I want to express my delegation's appreciation to the delegation of Venezuela for what I consider to be a very constructive proposal and my delegation could certainly support this and, as my colleague from the delegation of Venezuela has indicated, we are prepared to work with the Secretariat on specific language so that all Committee members will have the opportunity to review and hopefully reach consensus tomorrow. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the United States.

Are there any other comments on the proposed formulation, terminology for reflecting statements of regional groups? The distinguished representative of Canada.

Mr. P. BAINES (Canada) The proposal sounds good from our perspective, we look forward to seeing the specific language developed further upon which all members can make a decision. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Canada for his comments.

Is there any other delegation wishing to make comments? I see none.

So, the formulation proposed by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of GRULAC and accepted by the Committee is duly taken into consideration and the Secretariat will make the exact formulation that will be included in the report.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Just a clarification. The first part of the draft report which is contained in document L.279 is now being distributed in the pigeon holes. We do not have such language in the draft because it has to be processed and translated into all languages but when we come to the adoption of the report tomorrow morning, we are ready to go through the report and where we come to these sections then we see the language. The Secretariat is taking due note of the proposal by Venezuela and we understand the proposal. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the Secretariat for the clarification. Is the proposal made by the Secretariat acceptable to all delegations?

The distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic). A question of clarification. Do I understand it correctly that it will be approved or adopted when considering the report tomorrow? Or was it already adopted now?

The CHAIRMAN. It is already adopted now and tomorrow it will be reflected in the report as it is adopted now. The first part of the report is already distributed but during the approval of the report tomorrow the Secretariat will include the new formulation accepted today for the regional groups.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic). Mr. Chairman, would you be so kind as to let the Secretariat read once again what we adopted exactly.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, the Secretariat will give the full information.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) I am now going to explain what the Secretariat understood by the proposal made by Venezuela. In my explanation I am using last year's report because I do not have the current report here.

The method is as follows as the Secretariat has understood. Under general statements, the section of the report which reflects general statements there will be, as we have a practice already and in the case of the Latin American group it will read as follows, the

representative of Costa Rica made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. So, that is for general statements.

We then come to a substantive agenda item, and now I am just picking up an item here from last year's report so this is just indicative in this case. I am picking up a paragraph here from space and society last year and there it is reflected that we always have in the substantive items a paragraph indicating which member spoke and which observer spoke under that item. So, it would be a list of representatives of certain countries listed and then there will also be inserted a statement by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States in this case. Then, in the paragraphs reflecting views expressed by one delegation or by some delegations it will be as the practice has been. The view expressed or some delegations expressed the view. So this is so far the understanding of the Secretariat of the Venezuelan proposal. Maybe Venezuela can clarify if this is correctly understood. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for the statement.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) As the Secretariat has explained, that is our suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Venezuela.

The distinguished representative of the United States has the floor.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the explanation by the Secretariat and that does track with our understanding (___?) a note that our suggestion that in the report that this way of reflecting views is for all the regional groups, if another regional group should so choose to do this. So it is not just limited to one group, I think that was the intent.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the United States. It is what I said in the beginning after Venezuela pointed out their point of view.

The distinguished representative of Belgium.

Mr. J. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*) This is not a problem for the Belgian delegation, I do however have a request for clarification. When the Secretariat spoke it would mean that when a State conveys views on behalf of a regional group he is also conveying views on behalf of the members of that group that are not members of COPUOS.

The CHAIRMAN. To have an example. The Group of Latin American States has 33 members from which only 12 are members of COPUOS. I ask the opinion of Venezuela on what they wanted to express, that they speak on behalf of the full group, including the countries that are not members of COPUOS or they are speaking on behalf of the part of the group that are members of COPUOS because on behalf of the members that are not members of COPUOS you cannot express opinions here.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Quite right. However, I would like to underline an interesting situation, quite a revealing one, because precisely before we made this statement that we have just made GRULAC, in plenary, the whole of the group, even those not here in COPUOS, did look into the situation and reached an agreement. So, we could say that the group as a whole, even not members of COPUOS, do agree that it should be reflected in this manner. However, we might well say GRULAC members that are members of COPUOS but the truth of the matter is that the whole of the group agreed and in fact at 1 p.m. we had a plenary of the group as a whole in this building to discuss several items and among them COPUOS. So you may rest assured that GRULAC as a whole agrees with this position.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand, distinguished representative of Venezuela. In my view, we have to involve only members of COPUOS so we do not have any (___?) to write GRULAC on behalf of GRULAC members of COPUOS.

Distinguished member of Ecuador.

Mr. J. ROSENBERG (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*). What you have said just now is well taken. If the Secretariat wishes to convey it in that manner, GRULAC on behalf of the members that are members of COPUOS. I repeat what my colleague from Venezuela said, you should know that this was fully supported by the region.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you. I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) When we previously introduced language from the substantive secretariat reflecting a statement by a regional group the Editorial Section added the element on behalf of States Members of the United Nations of that particular regional group. What delegations will have before them in the first part of the report, L.279, later this afternoon, it should already be in the pigeon holes, is a big paragraph reflecting all statements under general exchange of views, including statements delivered on behalf of regional groups and there we have reflected States Members of the United Nations, members of GRULAC because they made a statement. We also have statements of the United Nations or the European Union, the G77 and of the Non-Aligned movement. If there is an agreement among delegations in the room that we should limit all those statements to the countries that are only members of COPUOS then we come back to that tomorrow when we adopt the report otherwise we have the general reflections. This is just to mark what you will have before you tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the Secretariat. If the Committee agrees to express just the fact that on behalf of that group without any other (____?). We agree.

The next speaker is the distinguished representative of China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Although the general idea we share with the Secretariat but it seems to me that we still have to consider the observer States because Costa Rica I am not sure whether they are observers. So, they can, on behalf of GRULAC members of COPUOS. My reading of this new draft report is quite clear that you represent member States of the United Nations (____?) that those members must be COPUOS members or observers to COPUOS. I do not think that we need to bother further to mention that they are members of the United Nations as well as members of COPUOS or as observer to COPUOS. That is too complicated for us. The implied message is that if you want on behalf of some States they must have some relationship with COPUOS as members of COPUOS or as observers of COPUOS, so we can leave the language as it is but we have the same understanding of what that (____?) refers to because we have observer States to attend this meeting and sometimes they will (____?) a group of States to make a statement.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you representative of China.

The distinguished representative of Colombia has the floor.

Mr. R. SERRANO CADENA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*) My delegation agrees with what China said. When we, within our regional group, decide to come up with a statement that is exactly what we do whether or not members or non-members are sitting within the group in question and statements which are read out comprise all of the member States in the group, all of the members of GRULAC in this particular instance. When countries sit as observers which are not members these countries also join this statement on behalf of GRULAC. Consequently, we would not want it to say only the members of GRULAC members of COPUOS have expressed their views. We would like to have something much more direct and, if the Committee would agree, it would be good to have members and observers but we would prefer just to see members of GRULAC. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Are there any comments on what the distinguished representative of Colombia expressed?

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) Mr. Chairman, I fully agree with the statement by the distinguished delegate from Colombia. For all the regional groups it should be whatever the terminology traditionally has been because we have no insights as to how each regional group coordinates. You cannot suggest that one regional group coordinated with only a handful of countries of their group or another regional group coordinated with the entire group, we have to just take it on its face, if someone speaking for the regional group they have done whatever coordination is necessary. I do not think it is necessary to have a qualifier in referring to the regional groups, they should just be referred to as they are. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished representative of the United States.

Are there any other comments or do we agree with the terminology proposed, expressing that it is only on behalf of the regional group without anything else added.

If there are no more comments I consider it agreed by COPUOS and the Secretariat now will take measures to reflect in the report what was agreed now.

Distinguished delegates, the Committee at its forty-second session agreed to postpone its decision on granting of permanent observer status to the International Association for the Advancement of

Space Safety (IAASS) until its fifty-third session taking into account the need for further information. In accordance with this request, IAASS has presented the Committee further information as contained in A/AC.105/2010/CRP.4 and CRP.4/Add.1. This document was distributed and you have it before you. I would like now to give the floor to the representative of IAASS to make a statement.

Mr. J. PELTON (IAASS) I wish to thank the Chair and the Secretariat, particularly Niklas Hedman and Professor Othman for their assistance and to all the delegates to make this presentation. I will try to be as brief as possible, there is a presentation that is in the document and I am not going to go through it I will highlight just a couple of slides.

The first point that I would like to make is that the Organization, which was formed in 2004 and which has been a member of the IAF since 2004, has been growing steadily to include all of the space agencies around the world, most of the space industries around the world and we have been involved in a series of activities involving professional training in terms of research and commission studies in terms of text books that we have published, awards that we have made.

We have, in addition to working with the IAF, had a close working relationship with the International Space University. I am Chairman of the Academic Committee and a former dean of the International Space University, so we have been working in many different areas in that regard.

What I would like to emphasize is that we feel that the work that we are carrying out on an international basis across the space agencies and even commercial space agencies is directly relatable to the work that COPUOS is to take on concerning the sustainability of space, that we have active work programmes related to space debris, to safe space operations, we have a book commissioned which we will be working with the Inspector-General of CNES as the primary editor and also regulatory and legal issues related to sustainability of space issues. So, we modestly state that we feel that the expertise of all of the professional members of the IAASS can be of some assistance to COPUOS as it goes forward with its work in the months and years ahead.

I would just like to show a couple of slides because they are visually helpful. This shows the membership of the ISU, we have here 23 countries, actually it is now 24, who are actively involved as members. Our largest membership share is from the United States, followed by a very heavy representation

from Europe but it also includes Japan, China and India and countries from South America, Brazil and so on and we hope, of course, to expand our membership as our professional activities grow.

I would also just like to note some of the activities that we have completed. In 2009, we completed more than a 1,000-page book which we think is the most comprehensive book ever assembled on the issue of space safety. This past year, Dr. Ram Jakhu and I and also Art Mensel of EADS published a special issue of the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society devoted to space safety issues and, in August of this year, Dr. Jakhu and I will also be bringing out as editors the book on space safety regulations and standards which again we feel is the most comprehensive book ever assembled on this issue. We have been active and continue to be active in the academic area including the idea of creating a new masters programme in space safety involving universities in the United States and Europe and perhaps other countries as well.

I would like to say that we have had four international conferences, two in Europe, two in the United States with close to 300 attendees at the latest meeting. We will have the next meeting in Versailles, France, where we hope to have perhaps an even larger representation. The main thing that I would like to convey is that this is a non-profit professional group who is dedicated to the advancement of space safety. We also have a very strong interest in sustainability of space and that will be one of our prime areas of activities in the next few years.

Finally, just to note that we hope very soon, assuming that we are admitted as observer to COPUOS, that we would also seek consultative and observer status with the International Telecommunication Union and the UN Economic and Social Council.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the distinguished representative of IAASS for his presentation.

Are there any objections, comments?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) (____?) explanation of the term, space safety, particularly in the connection with all human beings it seems to me this is not the appropriate term it should be space security of all human beings. I know what safety means in (____?) and in aviation but it seems to me that this is something else. Therefore I would like the spokesman

for this association to elaborate a little bit more on this term, space safety.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of the Czech Republic. The speaker asks for the presentation again to show exactly what he means by this.

Mr. J. PELTON (IAASS) I would just like to say while the presentation is coming up that we have a very broad definition of space safety and that we have included in this the idea of the safety for the general public on the ground, in the air and sea, launch range personnel, humans on board, the safeguard of valuable assets and orbit of various types of application satellites and the safeguard of airspace and ground environment. Yes, we do have a very broad concept of what our mission is. If you read our books you will see we cover all of these areas in some depth. We also have various workshops and activities in this area. We are having some discussions with the Canadian Government and McGill University to have a workshop on space security and some of the issues related to that. That is the name of our organization but the scope is quite broad and does include the issues mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of IAASS.

Are there any comments? Are there any objections to granting of permanent observer status to the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety? I see none.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We have no objection that this NGO should participate but there is an interesting aspect that we have raised in other areas and other parts of the Committee. When we turn to the next agenda item, I would like to read out our statement and put to the vote the admission of this NGO. We will be making that statement as part of another item because it is associated with the NGO topic generally and I would not want anybody to believe that we specifically object to this particular NGO because that is not the case.

The CHAIRMAN So now I want to submit to delegations the proposal to granting the permanent observer status to this Association and to recommend to the General Assembly this status. Are there any objections to recommend to the General Assembly the permanent observer status to the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety? I know what you mean it is a full process that will develop.

If I see no objections, it is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World has presented its application for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application is contained in A/AC.105/2010/CRP.5. First I give the floor to China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Sorry to flag my intention to make a statement. China, in the spirit of cooperation, agrees with you that we can join the consensus to support IAASS for recommendation of permanent observer status to COPUOS. We are encouraged to get the information from IAASS that they are planning to apply for consultative status with ITU as well as ECOSOC. We look forward, upon the approval of the General Assembly, to get further information from IAASS on the progress on their applying for consultative status with ECOSOC because that is a requirement of COPUOS and we hope that we can get further information on the progress.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

Now I would like to give the floor to the representative of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World to make a statement.

Mr. M. GASHUT (ARSCAW) (*interpretation from Arabic*) Thank you. I am going to slowly read so that you will get the interpretation.

On behalf of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World and on my personal behalf as Secretary I would like to congratulate you, Chairman, upon your election to the Chair of COPUOS. My congratulations are also conveyed to the Vice-Chairman, I would also like to thank Dr. Mazlan Othman for the efforts she has made as Director of OOSA and for the requests submitted. Our thanks also go to the heads and members of delegations as well as organizations and bodies participating in this session for having allowed us to participate at this meeting and to take the floor.

Our Association, ARSCAW, is working under the aegis of the FASRC which has headquarters in Sudan. Our Association is empowered and mandated by our council which comprises directors and heads of remote sensing bodies representing Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauretania and Palestine, would like to turn to you, through OOSA, in order to support our Association and to allow us to participate with the international community in implementing the peaceful uses of outer

space as adopted by UNISPACE III so that our Association could play an active role in the entire areas as well as nationally.

We work to coordinate activities with (___?) specialists in this field in particular in the member States and more generally in the area and we follow all of the fields of activity in outer space. We use all of these results to ensure environmental protection, to counter desertification, promote vegetation cover, to monitor climate change, the environment etc.

Our body is a governmental body which was set up as decision 6C/3 in 2002. This decision was taken on 19 December 2002 during the regular session held in Amman in Jordan, convening the ministers of education, scientific research of the Arab States. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was chosen as the focal point for our Association. This in order to promote scientific R&D, to promote the use of technology in this field and related technologies, to set up infrastructures for cooperative work and bodies in our area as well as abroad, to determine priorities and objectives for scientific research in outer space and space applications, to implement a common policy placing emphasis on aspects having to do with development, enabling researchers in the Arab world to participate in the development of the space sciences and enabling us to benefit from these applications, to encourage common Arab endeavours within the joint projects run amongst the States in the region, to study issues relating to sustainable development, to contribute effectively to the development of human resources in these specialized fields by training courses as well as introducing these sciences into the curricula at all levels of education and to work to achieve the objectives of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research to promote a joint Arab research and the establishment of all tools which are necessary in this field.

The membership of our Association is as follows, there is the Secretariat and the Council. Since it was established we have worked to create and establish Arab cooperation programmes, it has grouped specialized organizations and bodies working in this field and we have cooperated with the Arab Organization for Industrialization, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, etc.

In spite of the fact that we are relatively recent, we are just five years old, the Association nonetheless has undertaken ever so many projects in the field of remote sensing applications and we have coordinated

activities among specialized bodies as well. Annually, the Association adopts an annual plan comprising various fields of activity.

Firstly, the development of human resources, here we have organized various training courses for specialized staff in remote sensing and radar applications as well as in fields of mining resource exploitation as well as the classification of plant cover. We have also organized specialized courses in Libya in 2006 and a workshop in 2007. This year we are going to be sponsoring two remote sensing training courses in Mohammed V Centre in Morocco in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Industrialization. We staged a training course in 2008 which was run by specialists from the Libyan centre. In 2009, a workshop was organized in cooperation with the Syrian remote sensing body.

In the field of scientific endeavour and projects. Through our annual plan we have proposed ever so many projects in this field. The project for a digital, geological map and this in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Industrialization. There was also a coastal environment study run on the boundaries between Tunisia and Libya, this with the assistance of a national Tunisian mapping and remote sensing centre. Another joint project to cover and study plant cover, this in collaboration with Syria and Libya was run. Yet another project in the field of desertification and sand dune movement is being prepared in Egypt very close to a boundary area. We have also established a broad-based database so that Arab specialized centres and facilities in space activities can coordinate.

We have also organized symposia and conferences. There was a symposia on geographic names organized in Tunis in 2008. Another international one for remote sensing technologies which was held in Libya in 2009. An Arab conference on desertification in Libya, 2010. The fifth Arab conference on mining resources in Libya in 2010.

Concerning training and re-training. In principle, approval was given by our council for the training and establishment of educational centre activities in Arabic and this would be under the aegis of our Association. This will be specialized in the field of outer space science activities. We have decided on its headquarters when we will be sitting 28-29 November 2010 in Sudan. We are also publishing a scientific magazine which has been assessed by a jury comprising eminent Arab professors in the field of outer space sciences. This is a biannual magazine, the name is Remote Sensing Technologies. We believe that

there is a need to step up cooperation amongst Arab States and we are working within our Association to achieve precisely that goal since outer space is an important resource which is a common heritage of all humanity. We believe that it is necessary to step up our potential in this field especially in Arab States which have not even taken their first steps in this field in order to counter problems such as food security, natural threats, etc.

We are convinced that it is necessary to take part in the efforts of the international community as they relate to outer space studies and activities. Our request is just a proof of the interest we have in doing this work, in developing the potential of the Arab States in this field and our intention to participate with all the other States in order to fully play our role in this field along with other States in this field. We hope that our request will be favourably received. Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World for their statement.

Are there any objections to proposing this Association to the General Assembly to grant permanent observer status with COPUOS?

Syria has the floor.

Mr. O. AMMAR (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*) The statement and presentation of the Secretary of the Association bears witness to the significance of this body. This is the most important authority in this area in the whole of our region also it is the most active one as confirmed by the President of the Federation. It is an Association that is the most active part of the Federation and this brings together most of the remote sensing bodies in Arab countries. It is a government organization, it is furthermore an organization that makes a substantial contribution to our region. You no doubt know that we have very few Arabic publications but among those we find texts of this association intended to disseminate a space culture. We need this type of organization to coordinate activities throughout Arab countries and to establish cooperation between governmental bodies in the region where there are Arab countries. We certainly need the presence of a representative of this Association here on our Committee. The Association has already established a training centre imparting courses in Arabic in remote sensing. We believe the Association does add value to our region and furthermore we think that the Association deserves the

status of a permanent observer with COPUOS. Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the distinguished representative of Syria for his intervention.

First I want to ask the representative of this Association. Is this Association an intergovernmental organization or a non-governmental organization? It is important for the ECOSOC status issue.

Mr. M. GASHUT (ARSCAW) (*interpretation from Arabic*) It is an organization that is intergovernmental and it is an Arab organization.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you. Now the distinguished representative of Algeria has the floor.

Mr. A. OUSSEDIK (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*) The Algerian delegation fully shares the views put forward by our colleague from Syria and therefore wholeheartedly supports the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World, we are very much in favour of granting them observer status with COPUOS. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Algeria for his comment.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak?

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) My delegation has noted the candidature of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers with great interest. This was brought to the attention of member States on 10 June after the session of the Committee had already commenced and, as far as my delegation is concerned, we were not able to obtain instructions that would allow us to take a decision in this regard. I see that for the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety the candidature had been brought to our attention in 2009 and a decision is now taken in 2010 for the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety and in this connection we can take an informed decision. Perhaps delegations should have some time to reconsider this before we take a decision concerning this candidature.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of France.

The distinguished representative of Germany has the floor.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) I would like to support this need of clarification. I especially feel that the written material presented to us is much less extensive than what we have heard orally and in order to have an opinion-making possibility for the government at home we would really like to present much more material here.

I have checked the website which was mentioned here (____?) and it is a very small website with only a few links available and also only in Arabic so it is hard to analyse it just from the oral presentation of the activities done. If we compare the presentation of the last organization with books of 1,000 pages and so forth, conventions that were held, we have much more material in our hands than we have in this case so I would really support the French move to be provided with more information. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Germany. The distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia has the floor.

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) Mr. Chairman, first of all I really do not agree with what is being said from the two delegates from France and Germany. It is in Arabic and it has to be written in Arabic on the Internet. We do not have to write in French or English or any other language.

The second thing, I support this Organization because I am a government and we are a member in this. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, all these countries are members, we are not just a non-governmental organization, we are a governmental organization, we are supported by our government, our money is coming from our government. We are in a solid position, it is not just a non-governmental waiting for a donation from somebody else to give us anything. We would like the Committee over here to make a decision on this.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia for his intervention. As I heard there were no comments about the financing of the Association it was just a lack of information for some delegations.

Are there any other comments or suggestions?

First I give the floor to Venezuela and then to Syria.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. We would like to join in with the views expressed by Saudi Arabia just now.

We are referring to States and these are respected States in this Committee. They all have space activities and in addition to that it does not seem very fair to proceed in this manner. I do not think it is a balanced method. In the past the same happened with other NGOs and we were critical on a number of issues but they came in. So for a group of States or countries, are we going to apply conditions if we have not done so before? We have to be as transparent as possible and we have to be cautious. The same measures need to apply to all. These are respected States, fully accepted in this Committee, so we ought to accept admittance of this intergovernmental body without there being any major problem.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Venezuela. I do not think there were any problems with the transparency here or with the conditions put to different organizations. As you well remember, the IAASS was postponed one year to bring more information because some member States were not satisfied with the information provided to us the first time. This was no problem and now they provide information, the capital is analysed, they said yes and we approved to grant permanent observer status. It is no lack of transparency, what was reflected by the two delegations, Germany and France, was the lack of enough information to take the decision, nothing else.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Syria.

Mr. O. AMMAR (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*) I would like to confirm what you have just said, your latest expression, that is the insufficiency of information does not mean that there is an objection to granting that status to that organization. Here I would like to clarify. For those who need more information related to this Association, I would like to clarify saying that this Association represents us as States, all Arab member States here are members in that Association. Is there any objection to our presence here and our participation in COPUOS? No, I do not think so. We are permanent members here in COPUOS and we are also members in that Association. Then there is enough cover for that Association to request that status here. This is an Association which is financed by the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC) and this Federation has decided to allocate budgets to various associations and especially to this association because it is the most active in its area. It is an intergovernmental association which groups all countries and we, as States Members here, are also members of that Association. It is an intergovernmental organization which represents us, which is legitimate.

Therefore I think we should decide now to grant permanent observer status to that organization.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Syria for his comment.

Are there objections to grant the observer status to this Association?

Mr. J. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*) I would like to thank all delegations having spoken to provide the information for this candidate including the representative of the Association. We have no problem in principal. The only matter is that, as pointed out, it was given rather late and this is not settled in technical groups within COPUOS it is referred back to our permanent representation and back to Brussels. So while we have quite a lot of sympathy for this application, we would like to have time to consult our capital and, on the other hand, we would like to avoid setting a precedent in as far as we deal with this candidacy and we approach this in a very serious manner, you will be able to recall this. I would ask the Committee and the Association to be just a little more patient so that we can act in keeping with the procedures that need to be applied internally.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Belgium.

The distinguished representative of China has the floor.

Mr. Y. XU (China) China supports the application of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World and we are quite happy to have such an intergovernmental Arabic organization with broad representation in the Arabic world to show their interest in our COPUOS meeting and to apply for permanent observer status. Chairman, you have given us quite a clear understanding that this is an intergovernmental organization. According to the note prepared by the Secretariat, we have a clear criteria for these intergovernmental organizations. They have to work with space activities in conformity with the spirit of the UN Charter and have a well organized structure. Those requirements have been fulfilled by the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World, so I do not see any reason why we should postpone granting the status to this Arabic intergovernmental organization. There may be some delegations that have some doubts, have some information required to convince them but I should say that this organization has fulfilled the requirements, we should grant the status although, as I said, maybe in the

future this organization should provide more information on the activities carried out but that cannot be a prerequisite for granting status because they have already fulfilled the requirements. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China for his comments.

The distinguished representative of Libya.

Mr. M. GASHUT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*) Here I take the floor as a representative of Libya. This Association has its headquarters in Libya and just like my colleagues said it is an Arab association related to the Arab world. As for the information that came in late perhaps the Secretariat knows that it is difficult to communicate. I have not received any response from the Secretariat regarding my attendance here so I came as a representative of Libya. Therefore, there is a problem in communication and not in conveying the information, all this information can be conveyed to our friendly member countries here and I do not think that this postponement is justified. The funding is the funding of an intergovernmental organization and it is an organization devoted to Arab scientific research and it consists of ministers of scientific education in the Arab world and this Federation of Scientific Research Councils is funded by countries. I do not think therefore that there is any problem in this regard.

The CHAIRMAN I give the floor to the Secretariat to have some clarifications.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) We had some problems with communication. As delegations may see we received the application on 10 May and immediately after that we responded to the organization but it was difficult to reach the organization. However, this is the time frame that the Secretariat has presented, it was 10 May that we received the application for observer status by this intergovernmental organization.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Secretariat for the clarification. Member States should understand always that each member State has an internal procedure to communicate with the Secretariat to adopt some internal decisions and to instruct delegations to have interventions here.

It is not a problem with finance, it is not a problem of the organization, it is not a problem of the representation of the governments of different Arabic countries, the only problems I understand is the

problem that the application was given one month ago and a few days and the States did not have time to react internally in their ministries of foreign affairs to this very short time. No other comments on the existence, on the good will, on the activity of the organization as I understood from the interventions of all member States.

Iran has the floor.

Mr. N. SHIRAZI (Iran) Just briefly, my delegation would like to join the previous speakers in supporting the application of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World and through you, Mr. Chairman, my delegation requests the Committee to take action on its application and adopt permanent observer status. We are confident that its contribution to the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as a permanent observer member will significantly contribute to the work of COPUOS.

The CHAIRMAN Cuba has the floor and we try to have a decision, sorry Pakistan first.

Mr. A. SIRAJ (Pakistan) My delegation would like to support the views expressed by the distinguished delegate of China in which the distinguished delegate has very clearly expressed that it is an intergovernmental organization with the funding by the government and therefore my delegation would like to support the recommendation of this organization to membership of COPUOS.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan. Distinguished representative of Cuba.

Mr. M. FERNÁNDEZ RONDÓN (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Merely for the benefit of the Secretariat. It was my understanding that the Secretariat told us that the candidature had been received within the appropriate time frame. Could you please confirm that? If that is the case we totally support what was said by the Chinese delegation.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Cuba.

I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) The Secretariat does not determine the appropriate time frame, delegations of the Committee determine the appropriate time frame to be able to consider an application for permanent observer status.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you. The distinguished representative of Germany has the floor.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) It is obviously in the interest of a regional group to have this Association granted an observer status but I fear that there might be a negative precedent if we (___?) that any regional organization or combination of countries as long as it was an intergovernmental organization will have access as long as it is among governments without any need to explain to other regional groups or our community as such a written, extensive report on the activities. We have in a language I understand, I am sorry I do not understand Arabic, just three pages. I have heard an extensive elaboration but that is not in a written form and it will be very difficult to explain to my government that it is sufficient to present three pages in which there is mention of training courses, seminars and scientific conferences without an elaboration of the staff, of the people, without establishing the structure of this institution which was given orally I quite agree but I cannot bring that home to my government I would have a problem to vote for yes without being able to explain why on a written basis.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Germany.

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) This delegation believes that we do have sufficient elements to determine that there is an interest in the topics of the Committee and the subcommittees because what should really concern us is the approach, the focus. This is an intergovernmental body in this case. Is this an entity that is interested in the peaceful uses of outer space and the promotion of international cooperation? We believe that the fact that they have established this centre is demonstration of an interest in regional cooperation and that they could benefit from participating in the Committee's work. The flow of benefits towards Arab countries is clear, this may be speculation on my part, but I think that this Committee could likewise benefit from interaction with a scientific and technical community possibly also they have legal assets and this would be of use to the deliberations of our Committee. We would tend to agree, we would think that the only thing that would happen if we were not to recommend the admission of the centre is to delay that for a year which is what we saw on previous occasions. The truth of the matter is that there is no expectation that we would not admit them. Perhaps we should be a little flexible in this regard and support them. That is the view of my delegation, we wanted to share those views with you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Mexico.

Mr. O. AMMAR (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*) I apologize to the members for taking the floor so often regarding the same item. We talk about international cooperation in remote sensing and the use of space, we encourage such cooperation, we support it. Recently, with China, we have just signed a host agreement. We strive to create associations, we strive to create networks and here is an association which, through its efforts, consists of many countries in important regions. Regarding seeking more information, I do not think that the representatives of various countries need to explain things too much. This association is made up of governments that are member States here. This is an association which speaks on behalf of all those governments, I do not think that this governmental association, which consists of important States Members here, needs to explain to other representatives that this association needs a certain time to be approved or not. We know very well what its activities are and we would understand that sometimes with non-governmental organizations we seek more information regarding their activities but this is a governmental association and there is no justification to postpone its application.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Syria. We do not take any more interventions. The problem is not that we do not agree with this association, with the peaceful goals (___?) this association with the fact that this is an intergovernmental association, it is important for all Arab Countries, it is just the problem of procedure. When you go to a lawyer or a court they give you a term to have time to analyse a lot of things. It is quite the same thing here when different member States have their own internal procedures to take a decision. If the procedure is not accomplished they do not have the agreement as I understand from the representative of Germany, of France, of Belgium, they do not have yet instructions from home. It does not mean the instructions will be negative in one month or two months or half a year, it just means that the procedure is not yet accomplished according to the demands of member States.

Saudi Arabia, the last speaker please.

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) I am going to speak in English because I am going to make it very fast. First of all, we are not in court and we are not asking for a lawyer. The second thing, last year or the year before last we had an organization apply on

6 June and it was recognized as a permanent member. This is an organization, it is supported by countries, it is not anything like this and it is exactly like what the delegation from China and the delegation from Pakistan. This organization fulfills all the needs of our COPUOS activities therefore we do not need to spend one more year so that we can get a permission to get into this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

One of the proposals I could make is to ask the Committee to agree to grant the permanent observer status but at the same time to ask the organization to provide to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee also to the Legal Subcommittee and to the full Committee the needed information asked by member States. If you agree we could decide in this way.

Is it agreeable for the delegations of France, Germany?

China has the floor.

Mr. Y. XU (China) We agree with the suggestion with a minor suggestion. Maybe we should change 'ask' to 'invite'. It is for the General Assembly to make the decision whether we should grant permanent observer so I do not think we should ask if the permanent observer has been accepted by the General Assembly we should invite them to provide information. If they are already a permanent observer I do not think then we need any further information from them. So we should just show our respect to this intergovernmental organization and should use the word 'invite' rather than 'ask' or 'request'.

The CHAIRMAN Belgium has the floor.

Mr. J. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*) I believe that we are not going to be fighting over an issue of principle here. What I have heard over the past half hour really has put a dent into the trust that I have in this Committee. It is very irritating, disrespectful, that some delegations which have always tried to be constructive have a decision forced upon them whereas they just wish to abide by internal regulations. It would be perfectly normal to have one year pass. In any case the session is closing and one year's time the situation will be different and now what are we going to have, we are going to have a decision that has been rammed down our throats and that really, really is something which is going to prove very, very difficult for us to continue being constructive. I would have preferred to deal with this

otherwise, I hate to say so Chairman, I am going to have to refer this to our permanent representation but this kind of behaviour really makes it extremely difficult for us to work properly.

The CHAIRMAN France has the floor.

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) I perfectly well understand the emotion expressed right now by the distinguished representative of Belgium as to how the decision is being taken into consideration.

When I take a look at the letter here it was sent on 3 May from Tripoli, it came five days later here to Vienna and it took one month to go from Vienna to Vienna. If the decision is taken I would really like to have stated in the records that it is the fault of the Secretariat which transmitted this candidacy too late to member States. We had a briefing in May to prepare this meeting and this candidacy was not communicated to us even though the Secretariat was apprised of this. So the least that could have been done is to have shared this with us to enable us to be up to date as to the state of dealing with this. I think that the procedure followed is not adequate, it is not proper and I would like to have this duly reflected in the records of this meeting otherwise this is going to be reported to authorities here in Vienna. I would like to point out that at no point in time did my delegation in any way cast doubt as to the working methods or the financing or anything of this association, we just pointed out that the way in which this was transmitted by the Secretariat of OOSA did not enable us to take a properly enlightened decision.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the delegation of France. What I propose now is to postpone for tomorrow morning the decision concerning this association and to leave time to member States to consult their missions and to have the final point of view tomorrow or we will propose to the General Assembly with a condition to inform the Secretariat, the subcommittees, the Committee or we postpone for one year the decision until we have the full necessary information for member States to agree with the proposal. The problems are not the founder members of the Association, as was the case of the previous IAASS association, where a lot of States are members of that Association and it was always postponed one year to deliver the full necessary information for all member States to take the right decision. We need here consensus, if we do not have consensus we cannot take the decision. If tomorrow morning we do not have the consensus of all members we will postpone the problem of accepting this Association as an observer

member with one year until it delivers the full necessary information for all member States to take the decision within their ministries of foreign affairs. Thank you.

We continue with the rules and regulations and procedures of the Committee on granting of permanent observer status to non-governmental organizations. I would like first to give the floor to the Secretariat to inform us on A/AC.105/2010/CRP.6.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) CRP.6 has already been introduced to delegations but the Secretariat has been informed by one of the non-governmental organizations with some update that we received very recently, yesterday in fact. The Committee on Non-governmental Organizations of ECOSOC has recommended among a long list of organizations, the Secure World Foundation for consideration in plenary of ECOSOC. This is just an information that was updated and given to us yesterday by the Secure World Foundation. The Committee on Non-governmental Organizations has recommended for plenary, the Secure World Foundation.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for that clarification.

At the same time I want to draw the attention of member States that comparing with the time when the decision was taken to grant first the membership of an NGO to different organizations as members of ECOSOC and then accepted by COPUOS a lot of other types of organizations NGOs joined the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and they do not have in their activity anything to do with economic and social problems.

I just inform you that for instance the Association of Space Explorers is an NGO (____?) by individuals, non-intergovernmental organization, nothing to do with their member States, they are just individuals joining together and working together for a common purpose, to help make space better for the future of humanity. In this context some institutions very helpful to the Committee have some difficulties of having an observer status with ECOSOC that have different demands, more general demands, that we could have for such organizations to help the work of the Committee. Maybe in the future, one or two years, we try to establish our own rules for an organization or association, non-governmental or intergovernmental, to become observer member of our Committee. We could ask for, how many years of activity, what is the staff, what is the financing, how many international organizations joined, how many international events

organized, what is the participation, what is the output and the benefits to the activities of member States of such an association. This would be a problem to be discussed in the future but I just want to draw your attention that not all international organizations are intergovernmental and deal directly with ECOSOC. Some of them they have a big importance only here in the Committee not having interferences with economic and social problems, generally speaking, at the international level.

I give the floor to China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Before I venture any comments on your statement on this subitem I would just ask the Secretariat to make a further explanation on the annex that is column 5, European Space Policy Institute. According to the ECOSOC status this organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC but from the information provided by ESPI in 2010 confirms consultative status so it seems to me that this is conflicting information from different sources so we need further clarification on that.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission I just try to make preliminary reflections on your statement on this item.

The first basic difference with your suggestion is that it seems to me if an organization is a non-governmental organization there are no member States of this international non-governmental organization. If it is an NGO you have your members, you have your participants, but there are no member States of NGOs, so we should not mention compare the intergovernmental organization with NGOs because the status is quite different.

As to whether the NGOs with specialized experience or expertise in space activities I do not think that the (____?) have no relationship with economic, cultural or development issues because we know that space activities, space technologies play a very important role in the sustainable development. Although there are difficulties for those NGOs or specialized NGOs to attend this consultative status with ECOSOC but I do not think that from development perspective those specialized NGOs will not be able to have a relationship with economic and social development. That requirement has been laid down by COPUOS for quite a long time. Only when we see that there is convincing reasons to change the status I do not think that we should change (____?) easily. Although we have to look at the greater picture because in the UN system we have NGO committees to take care of NGOs involvement in UN activities. Those

requirements were laid down by NGO committees and applied to all UN bodies although we know that specialized agencies, like FAO, IAO, will be different because they are not UN bodies they are just specialized agencies with a relationship with the UN. ECOSOC have clear requirements for those committees like COPUOS as other committees, the involvement of NGOs you have to fulfil the rules laid down by NGO committees. Although it will be helpful (____?) or make some innovation, how to engage NGOs but it is not for COPUOS to make a decision and the criteria for NGOs involvement in UN activities. We should make quite clear that we should go back to New York to have the NGO committee to accept that situation and make any decisions concerning the involvement of NGOs.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

We intended to make demands to this Committee on the rules and procedures to inform our Committee on all these rules, we do not have an answer yet from the NGO committee of ECOSOC.

I give the floor to the Secretariat for clarification.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) In column 4, the ECOSOC status in accordance with their status table and there were no changes. The NGO in question, the European Space Policy Institute, contacted the Secretariat during the ongoing session and said that they had now received a letter from ECOSOC that they had status but to update that information on the website of ECOSOC I suppose that it takes time so that might be the reason but maybe the organization in question could also enlighten us on this procedure.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this clarification.

Is the organization able to give an answer now on this question?

Mr. SANTOS (ESPI) Unfortunately, I am not able to give any position now but I will gladly transmit the message to Director Kai-Uwe Schrogl for him to adequately respond.

The CHAIRMAN Are there any other comments?

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) Concerning the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz

International Prize For Water, we submitted the paper to the organization but they sent it back and said we have to go by the Internet, so that is the status.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia for the clarification.

Is there any other delegation wishing to take the floor on this issue?

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) I would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing CRP.6. I did have a question as to what this annex is telling us in terms of who has consultative status and who does not. Perhaps, just for the sake of clarity, the Secretariat could just run through each of the organizations and tell us do they have consultative status or not because it is not entirely clear to me. I understand that there is a question concerning ESPI but all of the others it would be useful for us to get a better handle on who has the status and who does not.

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished representative of the United States, according to the annex of CRP.6 the actual status of the organization with ECOSOC is written

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) It is in fact column 4 that is interesting and the Secretariat has monitored the website of ECOSOC and either there is no entry, if there is no entry there is no status but the status of ECOSOC is that they have different types of status and that is explained in footnote 1 and also in footnote 2 on page 4 and 5. They have different consultative status, there is roster or there is in fact under footnote 2 there is also a CSD status but CSD is under ECOSOC. So column 4 where there is an information for instance on IIASA, point 10, ECOSOC general consultative status, yes, then there is it. This is what the Secretariat has done, we monitor the website of ECOSOC and either we have found no entries or we have found an entry that there is a status. For instance the Secure World Foundation which is currently on the website of this table, where it says status, this organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC. There are different ways that they operate this table but this is the information that we have at hand from the ECOSOC website.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat. Is this satisfactory for you, distinguished delegate of the United States?

Are there any other questions?

Distinguished representative of Venezuela wishes to speak on this item.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Under this agenda item the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would like to underline the responsibility and the commitment that COPUOS has entered into in consideration of this item. You will recall that, on the occasion of the last session, we had a very interesting exchange on the participation of an NGO in COPUOS and it was even pointed out that the Committee did not wish to give, as easily, status as an observer as previously was the case. On the occasion of other sessions we really had to consider it was said so that we have more stringent procedures.

We also said that we should give some thought to NGOs that we have admitted and that subsequently were hardly ever in attendance and we were wondering what the rule should be to apply to an organization that has achieved observer status at one point in time but has made no meaningful contribution to the deliberations of the Committee. We drew the conclusion that we had to clarify the rules at the very outset but also the *a posteriori* rules in other terms, we should also have criteria that apply to regular attendance and that this is a topic we ought to embark on as soon as possible.

The institutionalization requires a minimum of conditions and procedures created to give fair treatment to such applications of NGOs of which the delegation believes there should be included more arguments in that their activities benefit society as a whole. We should be giving privilege to the promotion and implementation of activities that have a regional and/or worldwide impact that are in keeping with the objectives of COPUOS and the member States participating in the life of the United Nations avoiding special agendas of private organizations or groups that may be seeking to consolidate their own projects under the cover of the United Nations.

On that basis and building up on the principle of justice, and until such time as we define criteria, my delegation would like to have us totally and completely fulfil procedures for taking on NGOs in their capacity as permanent observers thus avoiding an imbalance between one or the other applicant organization. On the occasion of past sessions some of the formal requirements for joining were not abided by. The procedure established within the Committee was agreed on the occasion of thirty-third session so that was 1990 and this clearly indicates that to receive the permanent observer status any organization shall (1) be recognized as an entity in consultation with ECOSOC,

the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, be recognized as an international organization that is non-profit in nature, have an established headquarters, an executive director, a constitution or statutory text, have part of its programme in relation with topics that are within the remit of COPUOS.

Furthermore, this delegation gives recognition to the excellent work done by the Secretariat in terms of consulting with ECOSOC and the invitation that was extended to NGOs to comply with the established procedures for joining. We then derived CRP.6 and this contains an updated résumé of the status of these organizations. On that basis we would like to say that out of the 20 organizations only 50 per cent have satisfactorily discharged the established requirements. About 50 per cent of the remaining organizations out of these only one organization has applied to ECOSOC, the remainder are still not in line with the standards established by this Committee.

Here I would stop just a second to share with you another thought. When there is an interest we can see how we can be lacking in flexibility in respect of the standard and just a few moments ago many countries were indignant because there were procedural aspects that were mentioned but when this happens and that for years we have not been in compliance with the standards nobody seems to be troubled by the fact. When a regional group requires that it be placed in the report as a regional group a very old text is referred to because we are not in a position to comply but when a group of States is interested in a given item then obviously they can be swept away. So what is good for one group should be good for another.

I continue with my statement. These results should invite us to give some thought to ways and means to fulfil the requirements that we have been calling for in the interest of institutionalizing this with a very stringent approach in such a manner as COPUOS as approached this historically and has attended to space matters in the interest of garnering the interest of civil society on such significant topics. In this manner we should require a true commitment to allow participation of those truly promoting joint interest and not those that shield themselves behind the UN auspices to act in favour of their own interests or businesses as this could cast doubt on the dignified work of this Committee.

To conclude, under this assumption the delegation of Venezuela, in accordance with what was expressed by GRULAC on this topic, is of the view, and here I clearly say that this is the Venezuelan opinion, that if we do not fully comply with the formal

requirements for NGOs to join as permanent observers then we should not adopt or approve any application. Though thus far some NGOs have joined without acting strictly in keeping with such rules that does not mean we should continue to enshrine these practices because that means that we would not be applying our own standards and we would be in contradiction with the institutional and procedural spirit that we have sought to enshrine within the United Nations where the principles of justice and equity rule supreme. I will not take up more of your time. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Venezuela for your intervention. Just to remind member States that when an NGO applies for observer member within COPUOS we recommended the organization to apply for an NGO status within ECOSOC, they were recommended for sure. For the organization that do not have yet the status and applying is the problem of time, at the level of ECOSOC to ask for this additional information and to grant them the status. Or for the organizations that did not apply yet, we could just recommend once again to comply with the demands already existing but at the same time the General Assembly did not ask for any other additional document when they approved the membership of these countries, we just recommend they are approved by the General Assembly. Also here is a contradiction, we have time to analyse in the future all these problems now as an information you have the table, annex 1, with all complete information that exists now about all NGOs or intergovernmental organizations that are observer members of COPUOS.

Are there any other comments or suggestions connected with this subject under this discussion?

Before concluding this subject I would just ask delegations if they have a specific demand to the Secretariat before concluding this item because this item will be open also next year. Until next year we will continue in the same way or you have specific demands to the Secretariat to be accomplished in respect with these organizations.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I think my statement was very clear and so was this delegation. I do not think it is a good idea to postpone this to next year, we have already been doing so for three years. I would like to hear the views of other delegations because if we have not been going by the rules thus far why should we put this off to next year. Either you accept the proposal of this delegation that NGOs unless they really comply with the rules should not be in this room only those that comply should or are you suggesting that this be postponed to

next year. I am sorry but that would really be a joke. When we refer to an intergovernmental organization, delegations are offended because we are taking a very stringent view but of course never mind that these standards are not being applied.

I have something to add because I did not want to take so much of your time. ECOSOC, in the context of the United Nations, is a body that was appointed to regulate NGOs in general irrespective of the topic that they deal in and so ECOSOC has this status of letting us assess the activities of NGOs to make sure that they are really discharging their functions and duties within the United Nations system for which they were admitted. They check the purpose, the financial status and so on and so forth, it is very important and we cannot overlook this, irrespective of the NGO be it from one to several groups, NGOs must be compliant with. The problem is not so much admitting an NGO but also what happens further down the road. We see that some items are settled very quickly it is not an issue of bureaucracy but some cases require years. Some NGOs do not apply for years to ECOSOC, others in less than one or two years have achieved status with ECOSOC. What is the problem? Why is it so difficult? I do not think there is so much red tape. If we really want to be fair we should ask all to do the same because also if they were truly interested in being serious and responsible they must be capable of going by the rules. So what is going to happen to our suggestion? Do we postpone this to next year or to the next 20 years?

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished representative of Venezuela, as I pointed out a little bit earlier, any time an NGO or an international organization asks for the status of observer member of COPUOS we recommend them immediately to apply for observer status within the NGO committee of ECOSOC. Some of them (____?) already approved as observer members, organizations that did not apply yet to apply for this status and to conform to these requirements that we have in our document.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Thank you for your explanation of our practice but my understanding of the requirement of consultative status with ECOSOC is not just a recommendation. It is a requirement for NGOs to be permanent observer to COPUOS based on the decision of COPUOS. We can politely recommend to the candidate for permanent observer that that cannot change the nature of the requirement of this consultative status with ECOSOC.

At this stage I would like to draw your attention to the footnote prepared by the Secretariat which is

very helpful for us because we looked to that consultative status. It has three categories, the first one is general consultative status might be difficult for some specialized NGOs in space activities to acquire their specialized consultative status and the last one is roster status. (____?) for NGOs to acquire that status. Also I would like to draw your attention to that if the NGO that has formal status with other UN bodies or specialized agencies like UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO and others can be included on the ECOSOC roster.

Mr. Chairman, my reading of this is quite encouraging that if NGOs want to have (____?) play in the UN system you have to get a kind of formal relationship with certain agencies or bodies. The example we can share with you this afternoon is that we just provisionally granted permanent observer status to IAASS and we have from the statement of the representative of IAASS they are applying for consultative status with ITU and ECOSOC. So, what we want to know is that if there is any political will from NGOs who cannot fulfil this requirement, do they have a political will to fulfil that requirement that is the key issue we have to deal with otherwise there will be no rule for the NGOs to fulfil. The decision of COPUOS will lose his credit.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

I give the floor to the Secretariat for some clarification concerning the official documents.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) I draw delegation's attention to the requirements and as you are all aware throughout the years when an organization is applying for observer status the Secretariat puts as a note on the cover page of that conference room paper the decision taken by the Committee in 1990. It applies to both intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations when it comes to the objectives of the organization. Under heading 2 in this note we are referring to, we had these notes regularly throughout the past years, I will just read it out and this is the rule that we are discussing now.

Having considered the matter the Committee at its thirty-third session agreed that in the future non-governmental organizations which request observer status with the Committee should have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, and should, as part of their programmes, be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee.

This is the rule established. The practice of the Committee for some years has been to grant permanent observer status to a non-governmental organization on the understanding that that organization apply for consultative status with ECOSOC.

So, Mr. Chairman, this is the rule and there is the practice developed and this is, I suppose, what we are required to do at this session here is to look into the rules and the practice and see whether it should stay, the rule and the practice, or whether the rule should be the decision by the Committee or the practice whether we should revise the rule.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for the clarification.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) Mr. Chairman, having listened to the views expressed previously, my delegation has some of our own thoughts.

In the case of the observers when you look at the roster here of the 20 NGOs that we have all of these organizations part of their mandates do fall within the competency of the Committee and these organizations over the years have also made useful contributions to the Committee and its subcommittees, so I think that is a positive aspect of what we are looking at and my delegation believes that these NGOs are worthy of having observer status in the Committee and its subcommittees. The problem is the ECOSOC part of this. There are two things we need to keep in mind, the first is whether ECOSOC is acting in a reasonable time frame on applications that are made by the NGO and I do not have a good sense of that whether it takes years and years for ECOSOC to grant observer status once an application is made or whether they act on it in a reasonable time. So there is that time lag. If we keep the ECOSOC status as part of the criteria we have to realize that the NGO will need some time to make that application and to receive the approval from ECOSOC but that should not necessarily stand in the way of that NGO maybe being given temporary observer status in the Committee until these are fulfilled that is each year they come back and request observer status as other international organizations and member States of the UN have done.

The second part is whether that NGO has taken the time to apply to ECOSOC and that is a problem that we need to rectify which is we should go back to those NGOs that have not applied for ECOSOC status and confirm if they (a) want to remain as a permanent observer in the Committee and (b) if so, they should be urged to apply then as soon as possible to ECOSOC for

the observer status. Perhaps those are some of the measures that we can take this year so we are not putting things off for another year because I take the point that if it is a requirement we should be flexible in trying to exercise that requirement but if the NGO has not taken the time to go to ECOSOC then we really need for them to rethink their interest in being a permanent observer in the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished member of the United States for the clarification.

In consultation with the Secretariat we have a proposal. When an NGO or intergovernmental organization applies for observer status within COPUOS to grant them a provisional observer status for a period of three years with the understanding that within this period they have to get the NGO status within ECOSOC. After three years we review this status, if the time necessary to take observer status within ECOSOC is longer they could come with some explanation and to prolong a little bit, one year, another three years, the status of provisional observer member. If they do not have in a determined period of time, three years or longer, the status of the observer member with ECOSOC they are not accepted as observer members of our Committee. This is the proposal made from the Chair.

Is it agreeable with you?

When they have the status with ECOSOC we grant them the permanent status of our Committee.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) I have listened carefully to the discussion and also to the earlier information of the Secretariat and it was my understanding that the granting of the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council is no longer a rule, that it was cancelled. This I would like to know because I intend to suggest to delete this condition because it has no value for us. ECOSOC is interested in granting such a status to NGOs that have a wide impact not to NGOs which are specializing in a certain narrow field and our field, space activities and international cooperation in space activities in comparison with other NGO organizations is rather narrow, in my opinion. I believe that it would be sufficient for us to request the fulfilling of the condition that only such NGOs which have as part of their programmes be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee is sufficient and on the basis of consideration of this condition we should either admit or reject the application for observer status with this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you Professor Kopal for your comment.

The distinguished representative of Venezuela has the floor while the consultation with the Secretariat takes place.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Very briefly. We should reconsider the item but we do not have much to say. I think that your proposal is reasonable, it represents progress because we have to proceed in an orderly fashion. We think it is reasonable in that there should be a time lag for NGOs and that should be three years and they would have that status on a provisional basis and then that could be extended by a year. It would have to be put to the room as a whole but this delegation does think that this is a positive step forward. We are not 100 per cent in agreement but we think it is progress and we do not want to create more upheaval. We would like to go some place and we think it is a good alternative.

The CHAIRMAN The distinguished representative of China has the floor.

Mr. Y. XU (China) I just like to join in to thank you and the Secretariat for your efforts to find a solution to this issue and we totally agree with your suggestion I think that is the correct direction for us to work in the future years.

With your permission I want to make comments on whether NGOs with consultative status should have very broad or substantial contribution to the work of ECOSOC. If we can take the text prepared by the Secretariat, if the NGO on the roster of ECOSOC can make occasionally or useful contribution they do not need to have a very substantial contribution to the economic and social development of the world they just have related to the work of ECOSOC or its subsidiaries. I do not think that only those (___?) long history of NGOs you can get consultative status but if you can be of occasional useful help to ECOSOC you can get on the roster of ECOSOC so it is not such a high requirement for them to apply and get the last category of consultative status, that is on the roster of ECOSOC.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

Are there any comments on the proposed solution by the Chair?

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We do have to leave it perfectly clear,

three years and an extension of one year because if we leave it open one, two or three years the same may happen so it is good to say that three years is a reasonable amount of time plus one so that is four years I think that is too much but sufficient.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Venezuela. It depends also on the procedures of ECOSOC. We cannot determine the procedures and the time frame they take into consideration an application and how long it takes inside ECOSOC to take the decision. That was the reason that I proposed three years, after three years the NGO will come with an explanation of the status after three years with ECOSOC or some explanation from ECOSOC if it is possible (___?) give that status for one more year also to come with an explanation. If the things depends only on ECOSOC and not of the status of this organization we cannot say no but just give them more time until ECOSOC decides. It does not depend any more on the organization. They are encouraged to apply very quick after they demand the provisional status with us, they apply, it is up to them then to stay with ECOSOC but if ECOSOC time is too long we just grant them with the provisional status for one more period and if they have a reasonable explanation maybe one more period as well. It depends there were cases when ECOSOC status took more than three years.

Are there any objections to what I proposed?

Thank you, it is so included in the report.

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We have no objection to the proposal, we do have a question however. What was the agreement of combining the proposal you made supplemented by the proposal made by the Chinese delegation to ask New York for information to turn to ECOSOC and to turn to the NGO committee to request such information. Is that going to be in another paragraph?

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Mexico. Yes, we do agree with this proposal.

Now we have in front of us the strategic framework for 2012-2013 for the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space and has been distributed to you in A/AC.105/2010/CRP.8 and A/65/6 (Prog. 5).

Is there any delegation wishing to make comments? I see none.

Now the preparation for the 2011 event next year. I understand the Secretariat has distributed A/AC.105/2010/CRP.13 containing proposals as a result of consultations held at this session for the preparation of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of COPUOS and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight at the fifty-fourth session of COPUOS next year. I will open the floor for comments.

Are there any comments? I see none. All member States agree with CRP.13.

The General Assembly panel. I give the floor to the Secretariat to inform you about this.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) I refer delegations to General Assembly resolution 64/86 from 2009, the very last paragraph, paragraph 46. As it says at the end of that paragraph and agrees that a panel discussion should be held at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on a topic to be selected by the Committee taking into account the panel discussions held on climate change, food security and global health because these are the panels that we have had in three years in the General Assembly. The Secretariat has been communicated a proposal for such a topic and the proposal is as follows, space and emergencies. The proposal is from the second vice-chair of the Committee. Space and emergencies as a topic for the panel later this year.

The CHAIRMAN Are there any comments on the proposed theme for the panel for the General Assembly?

Mr. W. LICHEM (Austria) Just very briefly it is another occasion to remind us that the Economic and Social Council holds special sessions on emergencies without space being present so let us use this opportunity to build a bridge to ECOSOC's agenda and underline the pertinence of space technology in their agenda and let us adjust these two paths in the service of humankind.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Austria for his comments.

Is there any other delegation wishing to comment? I see none.

We propose the theme just announced for the panel of the General Assembly.

Switzerland has a comment, sorry I did not see you.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) I am sorry because I think I raised my panel a bit late and I did not want to comment about the subject of the panel to be held at the General Assembly this year. But you were so quick going from CRP.13 to the subject of the panel to be held in the General Assembly that I missed the opportunity to ask a question on CRP.13 so thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask this question now.

My question refers to paragraph 6 on the second page of the document it concerns the joint statement or similar communication that would be widely distributed to raise awareness on how international cooperation among States and so on. My question would be, how will this statement or communication be prepared? How will member States be consulted about this?

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Switzerland. I give the floor to the Secretariat to give some clarification.

Ms. N. RODRIGUES (Secretariat) The statement or communication we have not quite yet decided exactly what kind of document we would produce. The way we see this happening basically is we are hoping to get a group of interested delegations, assist the Chairman and the Secretariat on all the preparations which would include coming up with some kind of rough draft of elements or even provisional text. We could possibly prepare this between now and S&T, circulate the first version of S&T for initial comments, second version at LSC level and eventually to come to some kind of agreement at the Committee during the (____?) day celebrations but the statement would have to have the agreement of all delegations before we could communicate it as an outcome of the segment.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) Thank you for the answer from the Secretariat. I would kindly ask the Secretariat if it would be possible to circulate the draft to be discussed at S&T in advance before S&T so that we can have consultation inside our national administration before arriving at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The CHAIRMAN The Secretariat agrees to do it and to distribute the draft before the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to have time to analyse it, that would come with some proposals during the S&T.

Now we start to discuss the provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Committee. It is contained in A/AC.105/2010/CRP.15 and has been placed in your pigeon holes. I now open the floor for comments.

Are there any comments concerning the provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Committee?

Mr. R. SERRANO CADENA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We would like to thank the Secretariat for circulating CRP.15. The document contains the provisional agenda. Generally speaking, my delegation is in agreement with the agenda as we have it here it is just that under 12, future role of the Committee. In keeping with the decision taken yesterday by the Committee, I would like to see there the title of the document A/AC.105/L.278, towards a United Nations space policy. We believe that this would round off and clarify the item, we know what we are to expect next year and this document therefore will be one of the supporting elements for the discussion of that item.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Colombia. As we discussed and agreed the name of the topic we included in the agenda, its future role of the Committee having in mind that during this item we will consider the item proposed by the distinguished Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes about space policy. As we decided the name of the topic in the agenda will be the future role of the Committee.

Mr. R. SERRANO CADENA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We can perfectly well accept having in 12 reference to the future role of the Committee, I would like to apologize if there was any misunderstanding. My delegation is not asking for a change of heading, we are just asking that we have added a reference to the title of the document so that we know exactly what sort of debate is going to be held under 12, so we would have future role of the Committee and then we would add the heading of the document. Under future role of the Committee, we are going to be talking about other questions in any case but what is important is that there was a proposal to add an agenda item on the basis of a document and that is called, towards a UN space policy. We just want things to be extremely clear and explicit in 12. So there will be a discussion and that will be on the basis of the proposal of the ambassador, a proposal that was accepted by the Committee. On 12, we would have future role of the Committee and we would just simply add a specific reference to the document which is

called, towards a UN space policy and in that fashion we would be thereby truly, duly reflecting the decision of the Committee taken yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Colombia. I give the floor to the Secretariat to clarify exactly how we included everything in the document.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Yesterday it was agreed that the new substantive item would be future role of the Committee will be an item and there for one year only now in this first sense. In the report which delegations do not have before them because this is the report that you will get tomorrow but the Secretariat has a paragraph there that reads as follows: The Committee noted with appreciation the working paper by the Chair of the Committee for the period 2008-2009 towards a United Nations space policy, and then the symbol number of the document, and agreed to include a new item entitled, future role of the Committee on its agenda for its fifty-fourth session for one year only to enable the Committee to further consider the document and the document is L.278.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you Secretariat. Is it agreeable for you ambassador of Colombia?

Mr. R. SERRANO CADENA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*) My delegation would like to have things perfectly clear and, once again, since this paragraph is going to be included in the report, we will perfectly well understand that there will be reference to the future role of the Committee and that under this item reference will be made to the discussion on this issue and in the annotated agenda. We will also have to have very clear reference to this document as well.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, distinguished representative of Colombia. It is clearly stated in the paragraph of the report and you will have the report tomorrow. It was just written by the Secretariat as (____?).

Are there any comments on the agenda for the forty-fourth session?

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Just a question if I may. Have you purposely not included a point on the declaration of the chairman? Is that something that has been set aside and excluded? Possibly I am mistaken maybe I have not been following the debate properly.

The CHAIRMAN I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) First of all, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee decide on their provisional agendas for their upcoming sessions and it is defined in their reports. The Committee does not do that, the Committee agrees under each of its substantive items to continue the discussion for next year. The General Assembly on the other hand includes paragraphs on a decision to have those items of the Committee on the agenda for the next session. This is how the Committee has operated for years. In the discussion yesterday there was a request by certain delegations to see the proposed provisional agenda of the Committee for next year to be able to have an understanding on the substantive items, this is why the Secretariat produced this paper so that delegations could have an understanding of the list of the items. The items are procedural and they are substantive. We have not included in this list the opening of the session, adoption of the agenda, statement by the chair, election of the bureaus and these items but we start with the general exchange of views as the first substantive item. The other items that are procedural are of course included in the agenda of the Committee. So, Mr. Chairman, this is just to explain this document.

The CHAIRMAN As it is stated in this document the following substantive items have been proposed for the agenda of the forty-fourth session of the Committee. This is the understanding of this paper.

Mr. Y. XU (China) I thank the Secretariat for the further clarification. I do share (___?) what we should do with this document because if we look at last year's report there is no annex on the provisional agenda for the next year's COPUOS. My understanding is that this provisional agenda is just a help for the Secretariat (___?) next year's meeting. It will not be incorporated into the report because we have just finished the discussion on CRP.13 the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of COPUOS and fiftieth anniversary of human space flight, we will have a high level segment of next year. I am not sure whether those items will be incorporated in the provisional agenda for next year because it is only dealing with the original work of COPUOS so perhaps we should change the title of this document and make sure that this document was just adopted for the help of the Secretariat to prepare for next year's meeting rather than as an annex to the report because there are many items missing from this document because there is a high level segment and there will be new items to be incorporated in this document.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

Ms. A-M. Lan PHAN (Canada) (*interpretation from French*) May I make a comment on CRP.15 this is the provisional agenda. May I draw your attention to 11. This item was, I do believe, the subject of a multi-plan year covering three years. The multi-year plan was one that, during the fifty-second session, we had decided to extend for one year. We have not had time yet to discuss this during this session so we cannot really assume that this will be extended for another year. I merely wanted to draw your attention to this.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you. It is the next point on our agenda to be discussed now.

I would like to inform the delegations that we have the translation five minutes then we can continue in English if it is agreeable for you because we have one more item to discuss right now, item 15, use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development.

Brazil is ready to report to the Committee on the informal consultation that they had. Maybe now, until we have the translation, Brazil can inform us about the consultations, the document is just distributed now, you have it in front of you.

Brazil you have the floor.

Ms. R. DA FONSECA E SILVA (Brazil) First of all the Brazilian delegation wishes to thank all delegations that took part in the meeting held this morning in room M-7 for most of the morning and for the great support received by the Secretariat throughout the meeting and afterwards without which no outcome would be possible.

As announced yesterday the meeting had the goal to reveal the recommendations on ways and means to foster international cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data with a view to building up national infrastructures to use geospatial data as presented in documents A/AC.105/2010/CRP.7 and CRP.7/Add.1. We are pleased to say that this was a very fruitful meeting, thanks to the rich contributions provided by participants and to the great collaborative spirit under which the meeting was conducted, reflecting a clear intent by participants to find a common ground so that a general agreement could be reached.

The document which has now been distributed to all delegations is the product of this meeting and

reflects the consensus reached by participants this morning. Just for clarification purposes it should be noted that, as agreed by participants at the beginning of that meeting, both documents CRP.7 and CRP.7/Add.1 were reviewed and approved recommendations from both documents were included in the CRP now presented to delegations.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Brazil for the presentation of the deliberations today in informal consultations.

Are there comments on the proposed document? I see the consultations were fruitful and everybody agrees with the document.

Mr. J. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*) This is merely to thank the Brazilian delegation as well as other delegations for the work and I think the outcome is a document that is both the subject of a consensus, at least we hope so, and pragmatic in terms of its approach to the subject matter. I would particularly like to thank the Brazilian delegation for their many efforts.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of Belgium.

Ms. A-M. Lan PHAN (Canada) (*interpretation from French*) I would simply like to join in with Belgium to say that we were very satisfied indeed with the consultations and we suggest adoption of the document.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you, I propose the adoption of the document. Are there any objections? I see none.

The document is adopted.

As the Secretariat explains, this is the final report and next year this will not be on the agenda of the Committee anymore. Is it understandable for all delegations? Thank you very much.

Distinguished delegates, we have concluded agenda item 15 and agenda item 16. Tomorrow morning we will discuss the granting of observer status to the Association Of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World. This is the only thing we should decide tomorrow and start to analyse the report.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Very briefly, just a clarification. With adoption of the draft report international cooperation in promoting the use of space

data. Will this report become a part of the report of the Committee or as an annex to the report? We just want to know the outcome of the report.

The CHAIRMAN The Secretariat will give you some explanation.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) This document, CRP.16 will, after this session, be transformed into a A/AC.105 general distribution document, so it will be a separate document, it will be the final report of this agenda item, it is not an annex to the COPUOS report it is a separate report and it would be edited and translated into all languages.

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished representative of China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Thank you for the clarification from the Secretariat but in our report of the COPUOS meeting we still have this item discussed during this session, we should reflect what was discussed during this session. I am wondering whether you should (___?) the discussion during this session under this topic because I understand that will be a separate report on this item but this year what will be incorporated in the report of COPUOS because we had discussions on that.

The CHAIRMAN Do you propose just to reflect in the report that we adopted the document or to reflect in the document all discussions we had around this document?

What is your proposal, distinguished representative of China?

Mr. Y. XU (China) If I can make a suggestion that we just give a very brief introduction of the discussion during this session and mention that the report was adopted. If possible, I would like to see this report be an annex to the COPUOS report because it is an item discussed by COPUOS for several sessions. Although it is up to the Secretariat to decide on that but we should mention the discussions during this session under this item in the report. It can be two paragraphs but just mention this report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) In the report that we will adopt tomorrow, that is reflecting the discussions at this session, we have agenda item 15 and it will be a full account of the statements, discussions

under that item and also reflecting the decision that the separate document, the final report of the outcome of this multi-year workplan was adopted. This is what will happen with the report tomorrow. Then this document CRP.16 will be edited, translated and transformed into a full document of the Committee in our parliamentary documentation series as general distribution. This is the process the Secretariat has understood.

The CHAIRMAN Are there any other comments? I see none.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Committee. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning. We reconvene promptly at 10 a.m., please at 10 a.m. to have time to take into consideration item 17, the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Are there any questions or comments on the proposed schedule? I see none.

Before adjourning the Secretariat has an announcement for you.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Just to announce that members of the African group are invited to informal consultations starting at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning in room MOE100 and this applies only to the African group.

Also, distinguished delegates, in your pigeon holes you should have the first two parts of the report that we will adopt tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat. The meeting is now adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

The meeting closed at 6.17 p.m.