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# Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

*Unedited transcript*

**Fifty-fourth session**

630th Meeting
Thursday, 2 June 2011, 10 a.m.
Vienna

*Chairman:* Mr. Dumitru Dorin PRUNARIU *(Romania)*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN** Good morning distinguished delegates. I would like to welcome you all again and I now declare open the 630th meeting and the regular fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Yesterday we held a commemorative segment of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee with a number of opening addresses and by adopting the Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee. We conducted a round-table discussion with prominent speakers sharing their experiences and views on achievements made on space exploration and the future of humankind in space. We also benefited from a large number of national addresses targeting these extraordinary commemorative events. The commemorative segment concluded with the official opening of the exhibition here in the Rotunda of the Vienna International Centre and the Office for Outer Space Affairs invited us all to a celebratory evening reception.

Ì would like to thank all delegations, invited guests, astronauts and cosmonauts, that participated in our celebration. The Office and the Secretariat of the United Nations for their great support in making this commemorative segment an event to remember. We will still have many more commemorative activities and side events taking place throughout the current session of the Committee.

Distinguished delegates, this morning we will first proceed with the adoption of the agenda. Before doing so I would like to announce that today, during lunchtime, all delegations are invited to a reception hosted by the delegation of Japan to take place from 1 to 2.30 p.m. in the VIC Mozart Room.

**Adoption of the agenda** (agenda item 2)

Distinguished delegates, you have before you, for approval and adoption, the provisional agenda for the session contained in A/AC.105/L.280. This provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the arrangements reached at the 2010 session of the Committee which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/97 of 10 December 2010.

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

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

Are there any objections? If I hear no objections may I take it that the agenda is adopted?

*It is so decided.*

I would like to inform the Committee that I have received requests from the following delegations seeking permission to attend the current session of the

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Committee as observers, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Jordan, Oman, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, as well as the Holy See, Palestine and the European Union.

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

If there are no objections we will proceed accordingly. Are there any objections? I see none.

*It is so decided.*

I would also like to inform the Committee of the application by Azerbaijan to become a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The official communication by Azerbaijan was received by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on 31 March 2011 and was duly communicated to all permanent missions of member States of the Committee in a note verbale. The note verbale received from Azerbaijan is contained in CRP.7 to this session. The Committee will take the decision on this request under agenda item 15, other matters, next week.

Delegations will also be provided with CRP.6 containing a compilation of all documentation received since last year's session of the Committee in support of the application by the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World for permanent observer status with the Committee.

Now, distinguished delegates, I will present the statement of the Chair.

**Statement by the Chair** (agenda item 3)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the fifty-fourth session of the Committee. I am honoured to have an opportunity to once again preside over the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I thank you all for your continued support provided to me and your efficient cooperation. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the bureau of the Committee, Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa and Raimundo González Aninat of Chile, for their valuable support to the work of the Committee.

At the outset allow me to convey my deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, with regard to the recent natural disasters that have taken so many lives and caused so much damage in those countries. These recent disasters once again show us how vulnerable we are and how important it is to build capacities to mitigate the devastating effects of disasters.

Space tools are indispensable in such endeavours and the Committee has continuously made efforts to promote and increase awareness and capacity building in the use of space technology applications at the international, regional and national level, in many critical areas of concern to all humanity such as disaster management, climate change, food security and global health.

Distinguished delegates. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first human space flight which opened new horizons for space research and exploration. On 12 April 1961 the Soviet cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, completed the world's first manned space flight on board a Vostok spacecraft. I would like to congratulate the Russian Federation on this event.

Thirty years ago, also on 12 April, the United States Shuttle Colombia took off for its first test flight becoming the first reusable spacecraft. This was a remarkable endeavour and the courage with which the United States have pursued this programme and its contribution to international cooperation in space are recognized by all countries. I would like to congratulate the United States on this anniversary.

I was fortunate to fly myself into outer space 30 years ago accomplishing a scientific mission on board Salyut-6 space station as the Space Shuttle concluded its first flight. This valuable experience I had changed my vision and approach on global issues making me pay specific attention to the protection of our planet Earth and to helping global and regional development through space applications.

Yesterday, on 1 June, during the commemorative segment and the Round Table, we were able to consider and identify a number of important points which would, I hope, assist us in our work at the current and future sessions of the Committee. I, myself, drew a number of conclusions which I would like to share with all of you.

We need to look more closely into how advanced space research and exploration systems and technologies could further contribute to meeting

challenges, including that of global climate change and to food security and global health, and endeavour to examine how the outcomes and spin-offs of scientific research in human space flight could increase the benefits, in particular for developing countries.

We need to support regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities which is becoming to be even more essential for ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space, assisting States in development of their space capabilities and contributing to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. We also need to ensure a closer coordination between the Committee and other intergovernmental bodies involved in the global development agenda of the United Nations including with respect to the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development.

Distinguished delegates. I am pleased to see all of you coming from different parts of the world to participate in, as well as contribute to, the deliberations of the Committee. This year, I have the honour of welcoming and congratulating the new member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Tunisia, which has been playing an active role in the work of the Committee as an observer and I am confident that Tunisia's membership will enrich the discussions of the Committee and further its goals of promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. I also have the pleasure of welcoming a new permanent observer to the Committee, the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS).

Distinguished delegates. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee made considerable achievements this year. I would like to congratulate Mr. Ulrich Huth of Germany and Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh of the Islamic Republic of Iran on their excellent leadership and on their skilful guidance of the work of these bodies. Likewise, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Shivakumar of India, Mr. Sam Harbison of the United Kingdom, Mr. Peter Martinez of South Africa, Mr. Sergio Camacho of Mexico, Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil, Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria and Mr. Jean-François Mayence of Belgium, for their excellent leadership this year of the respective working groups of the subcommittees.

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

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

Distinguished delegates. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continuously considers the latest developments in the field of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and the benefits that the use of GNSS brings to the world's economies and societies. I am pleased to note the activities being undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its capacity as executive secretary of ICG.

How to successfully build capacity in space law, particularly in developing countries, is a key area of the Legal Subcommittee. Education, research and development and dissemination of information are identified as necessary to enhance capacity in this field and I am pleased to note the continuous commitment and efforts of the Office in this regard.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications continues to play an important role in improving capacity of particularly developing countries to use space technology to support efforts to attain sustainable development and meet global development goals. On the basis of proposals made by the Office, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee recommended the proposed activities of the Programme for 2011 for approval by the Committee at this session as contained in the report of the subcommittee. The Office will also present to us, at this session, its planned activities for 2012.

In view of my earlier observations on the challenges to humanity posed by disasters, I note with pleasure the progress made in the implementation of the plan of work of UN SPIDER for 2011-2012. I would also like to express appreciation related to the voluntary resources that have been provided by various member States as well as to all other member States that have indicated their willingness to make cash and

in-kind contributions to support the implementation of the Programme.

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

In this regard I am pleased to note the ongoing preparations for the Fourth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (ALC) on the theme 'Building a shared vision for space in Africa' which will be hosted by the Government of Kenya and be held from 26-28 September 2011.

The seventeenth session of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum had been held in Melbourne, Australia, from 23-26 November 2010. The theme of the session was the role of space technology in industry in addressing climate change. The eighteenth session of the Forum will be jointly organized by the Government of Singapore and the Government of Japan and be hosted by Singapore in December 2011.

APSCO held its fourth Council meeting in Pattaya, Thailand, at the end of January 2011 at which it approved the implementation of the APSCO Applied High Resolution Satellite System as an optional project and the Asia-Pacific Ground Based Optical Space Objects Observation System as a basic activity. These two projects would be implemented in addition to the data sharing service platform project of APSCO.

The Sixth Space Conference of the Americas has been held in Pachuca, Mexico, from 15-19 November 2010 hosted by the Government of Mexico. The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Pachuca Declaration which, inter alia, calls for the creation of a space technical advisory group made up of representatives of space agencies and/or government agencies responsible for space matters in the countries of the continent which will provide advisory assistance to the work of the Space Conference of the Americas and its respective Pro Tempore Secretariats.

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

We gain invaluable support by many other efforts and through the invaluable support given to COPUOS by our permanent observer organizations in cooperation with our members. Just to mention a few in addition to what I have already related to. The International Astronautical Federation (IAF), together with the respective host countries, organize every year the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) which provides a fundamental dialogue between all stakeholders in the space field both at governmental and private sector levels. Last year the IAC was hosted by the Czech Republic and I am very pleased to note its highly successful conclusion, I am looking forward to this year's IAC which will be hosted by South Africa.

I would like to thank the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) for having very successfully organized a symposium at this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee on the theme 'A new look at the delimitation of airspace and outer space'. Since our last session, we have witnessed many achievements in space by the members of this Committee. Considering that all delegations have been presented with a CD ROM containing the comprehensive publication 'Highlights in Space 2010' which has also been distributed at the two subcommittees this year. I will not go deep into these efforts, I would nevertheless like to express my sincere gratitude to COSPAR, IAF and IISL for having produced this publication.

Distinguished delegates. Before I conclude, I would like to stress one fact which we should not omit. These days when we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the first meeting of our Committee, we should also recall that during all those years the United Nations Secretariat which, since 1993, is represented by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, was with us hand-in-hand and shoulder to shoulder, being completely dedicated and committed to facilitate our work and to implement our decisions. I would like to use this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Committee, the gratitude to all past and present staff of the United Nations and the Office who help us in our endeavours. I would here like to thank the team of the

Committee services and research section of the Office for the truly dedicated and excellent support to us given throughout the years and also for preparing some complex and numerous event at the current session of the Committee.

Distinguished delegates. We have much to discuss and agree upon in the coming days. However, taking into consideration the outstanding record of achievements, the successful resolution of various complex issues while maintaining consensus in the process and with your cooperation and valuable contributions I am confident in the success of this session.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

Distinguished delegates. As in the past, the indicative schedule of work annexed to the agenda, which was adopted by the Committee earlier this morning, will be followed in a flexible manner as much as possible and can be adjusted as we proceed with our work.

General Assembly resolution 32/71 requires that members of each United Nations body be informed at the beginning of each session of the resources available to it. I would like to inform you of the arrangements made for this session of this Committee.

Assigned conference meeting rooms. Conference Room M1, M7, M0E100, M0E13, 15, 16, 18, 19, and E0953.

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

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

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours namely from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3-6 p.m. on working days and;

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

In addition to the above, financial and capacity constraints in Conference Services coincide with the trend of increasing demand for both meeting and documentation services, the existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload. There is a need to adhere strictly to guidelines in providing interpretation, meeting and documentation services. In particular, ad hoc meetings, informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours or on non-working days will not be serviced.

Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficiency measures such as, increased outsourcing, fully electronic document processing, reduced overtime and night shift and intensive editorial report drafting assistance. Therefore, close coordination and cooperation between delegations, the substantive Secretariat and Conference Services, is even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Services will do their best to deliver to us, as they did in the past, with timely submission of in-session documentation in all six official languages. However, due to the constraints already mentioned, some documentation may only be available for the afternoon closing session, unedited or in English only, depending on how late it was submitted for processing. On your behalf I would like to assure the Secretariat that they can count on the usual good cooperation and understanding of delegations in keeping submission deadlines, I trust that with that we will bring this session to a successful closure.

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

Delegates are requested to turn mobile telephones off when entering any conference room. Mobile phones switched on and on stand-by seriously interfere with the sound system in conference rooms and hence affect the quality of interpretation and sound recording. I strongly urge you to please adhere to this request. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates before turning to our next agenda item, general exchange of views, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that under item 15, other matters, which we will consider next

week, we will, among other things, consider the candidatures received from the respective regional groups for the post of second vice-chairman of the Committee for the period 2012-2013 and for the post of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the same period, thus making the bureau for the next period complete.

We have also received a candidature for the post of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2014-2015. This candidature are presented in CRP.3, CRP.4 and CRP.5 being distributed to all delegations.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of item 4 of our agenda, general exchange of views. As a general guideline, statements under this item should last no longer than 10 minutes.

**Mr. P. ZOGRAFOS** (Greece) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Good morning to everybody. I would like to make, in completing your intervention, a tribute to colleagues of yours, the astronauts lost in space expeditions. In my afternoon intervention I distributed a list of these heroic and fantastic personalities. I would like also, because we are in the first formal meeting of our session, to express the condolences of my country, and personally of myself because we have close family ties with Japan, for the huge catastrophe not only for the natural tsunami but the man-made and unnatural nuclear disaster. We really, in my family also, cry for this disaster. We hope that it should be the greatest lesson for all humanity on how to use nuclear power sources, not only in outer space but also on the Earth. On this opportunity, I would like to pay a one minute silent tribute to the loss of human lives of Japan. Thank you Mr. Chairman and excuse me for this interruption.

**General exchange of views** (agenda item 4)

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you very much distinguished representative of Greece for your proposal and I agree with that, we could have one minute of silence.

Now I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Group of 77.

**Mr. A. SOLTANIEH** (On behalf of the Group of 77 and China) In the name of God the most gracious and the most merciful. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China I would like to express our satisfaction for the successful chairmanship of the fifty-third session of COPUOS and assure you, and the members of the bureau, of our full support for this session. The Group would also like to extend its appreciation to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman, and her dedicated staff for the documentation and planning required for convening this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first period of the session of COPUOS and the fiftieth anniversary of the human space flight activities where the journey made by Yuri Gagarin on 12 April 1961 and approximately 500 men and women that have had the privilege to reach outer space have served as a source of inspiration for future generations to embrace space science as an activity dedicated to the wellbeing of people.

During this period, COPUOS has acted as a bridge that has brought the advantages and benefits of space research and technology to countries that are struggling to overcome social and economic difficulties. In this regard the Group of 77 and China would like to seize this opportunity to express its highest appreciation for the work carried out by COPUOS and its two subcommittees in promoting international cooperation and the peaceful uses of outer space through the elaboration of the treaties governing outer space activities and offering an adequate framework to address matters that have great impact in the development of nations. The more COPUOS identifies, discusses and also finds solutions for the fundamental space issues of our time, the more indispensable it will be.

Mr. Chairman. In recent years, the Committee has witnessed how developing countries have been engaging more in space activities and in discussions in COPUOS. Several member States of the G77 and China have achieved important milestones in space activities while others are just beginning to incorporate space activities into their national programmes. This fact shows that all members of the Group have an increasing awareness of the potential importance and impact that space activities have today. In this context, the Group is of the view that all forums where space-related issues are addressed should be enhanced and strengthened in order to guarantee that all countries can engage in these activities on a basis of equality.

Mr. Chairman, the Group sees that the enhancement in international cooperation in space activities should be made in order to promote all aspects of the peaceful utilization of outer space and to improve the ongoing and future activities in this area with the view of contributing to both global, social and

economic prosperity and sustainable development, particularly for developing countries.

At the outset, the G77 and China wishes to recall the exploration of outer space on a basis of equality and according to the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies and peaceful uses of outer space as stated in articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, in order to ensure the common benefits for space activities.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. Several of these issues to be discussed during this session are of paramount importance to developing countries. Protection of the environment, transfer of technology, capacity building, sustainable development, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, among others, are areas that need to be strengthened through international cooperation in space activities.

Outer space plays an increasing and important role in social economic development of all nations. Activities in outer space in the last decades have increased dramatically with the emergence of new actors from governmental and non-governmental entities from all around the world. Therefore, outer space should be protected and used rationally as a limited natural resource. Sustainable use of space will be guaranteed if all activities carried out in this environment are supported by clear regulations, rules and recommendations. At the same time, this new reality also shows that much work remains to be done and many subjects should be considered.

Mr. Chairman, the proliferation of space debris and increased possibility of collisions _____(?) raise concern about the long-term sustainability of space activities, particularly in the low-Earth orbit and the geostationary orbit environment. The Group of 77 and China therefore welcomes the establishment of a working group on long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the scientific and Technical Subcommittee and encourages the Committee to follow the discussions on that item in order to contribute collectively to make space activities more secure for all space actors and simultaneously ensure that all countries are able to have equitable access to outer space.

Mr. Chairman, in this context, the Group is of the view that this Committee should play an active role in strengthening the interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to ensure that the scientific and technical advances are adequately addressed in the legal framework of space activities. Coordination and synergies between the two subcommittees would also promote understanding, further adherence and compliance with existing United Nations legal instruments. In this regard, the time allocated to the Legal Subcommittee should be rationalized and optimized. This should be achieved through the inclusion of substantive discussions and items with the objective of strengthening the progressive development of an international legal framework of space activities. Therefore, the current duration of two weeks for the Legal Subcommittee should be retained to ensure that future legal aspects of the international legal framework can be addressed properly.

Mr. Chairman. We have indeed an adequate mechanism before us in COPUOS and its two subcommittees to address space related issues. We must recall that people worldwide count on the UN system to address global needs and especially the needs of developing countries in a spirit of cooperation and consensus. It is the hope of the Group that we will be able to address these issues and to come up with conclusions and recommendations which will contribute to global prosperity throughout and the promotion of enhanced international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Group is prepared to engage in discussions that are about to take place during this session of the Committee and will express its views under specific agenda items. Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of the Group of 77.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished Ambassador Freddy Padilla from Colombia, representing GRULAC.

**Mr. F. PADILLA DE LEÓN** (On behalf of GRULAC) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Chairman, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) I would like to congratulate you in seeing you once more chairing this fifty-fourth session of the Committee and this is an opportunity during which you may enjoy the active support of GRULAC. We would also like to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat for the documentation provided for the deliberations of this Committee.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

and the fiftieth anniversary of manned space flight acknowledges the journey which has been travelled in the exploration and use of outer space to benefit human development. In this regard, GRULAC wishes to commend the work of this Committee and its subcommittees in fostering dialogue and promoting international cooperation.

GRULAC is convinced of the peaceful use of outer space and the benefits which harnessing it can provide for human development. With this in mind, it restates its adherence to and respect for the principles and agreements which should govern the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space especially universal access to outer space on an equal footing for the benefit of all States, the principle of non-appropriation of outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies and the commitment, entered into by States, to ensure that outer space is strictly used for peaceful purposes.

Chairman, the great headway made in various fields of human development and harnessing of space technology in areas so diverse as science, environment, medicine and education, prompts us to underscore the importance of international and interregional cooperation on space activities in order to bring the progress made in this field to all countries especially the developing States through capacity building programmes and activities in the scientific and technological fields.

Furthermore, the increasing use of outer space by a growing number of players might engender unpredictable impact on the outer space environment. Issues such as saturation of the geostationary orbit, the management of space debris and the use of nuclear energy in terrestrial orbits, are aspects which might impair the sustainability of space activities. With this in mind, GRULAC expresses gratitude for the work carried out in the context of the working group on long-term sustainability of space activities. In this regard, we believe that the study of this issue cannot and should not become an instrument to ensure that countries that traditionally have managed space technology might establish restrictions on other countries who, perfectly legitimately, aspire to the development and use of space technology as a fundamental instrument for improving the living conditions of their peoples.

Chairman. GRULAC acknowledges the important work which this Committee undertakes to promote greater interaction between its scientific and legal subcommittees to ensure that space activities develop within a proper legal framework, one which will promote understanding, acceptance and actual implementation of the legal instruments which exist in the United Nations.

Chairman. GRULAC resolutely believes that regional and interregional cooperation is one of the fundamental pillars in the context of harnessing outer space which will make it possible to exchange knowledge and good practice as well as building capacity at the national and regional levels. To this end, GRULAC commends the work undertaken in the context of the Space Conference of the Americas.

The Space Conference of the Americas is the main forum for promoting regional and international cooperation for the States of the Americas with the purpose of making progress in space activities, taking into account the fact that the application and peaceful use of such technologies should redound to the benefit of economic, social, environmental and human development of the countries of the continent. Likewise, GRULAC welcomes the holding of the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Mexico City in November 2010, and commends the commencement of Mexico's functions as Pro Tempore Secretariat of this Conference, while it also acknowledges the work performed by Ecuador as Pro Tempore Secretariat between 2006 and 2010.

GRULAC thanks the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its cooperation and feels that it is important for the Committee to continue bolstering cooperation with regional organizations and academic and scientific institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to create an awareness of the benefits which space science and technology may bring to sustainable development.

Chairman. The agenda before us at this fifty-fourth session comprises issues of the highest importance for development, such as the link between space and water, climate change and prevention, management and mitigation _____(?), areas of special interest to Latin America since they are inextricably linked to the development of our States.

On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries, I restate our readiness and cooperation to contribute to a constructive and fruitful debate to ensure that the deliberations of this session may conclude successfully. To this end, we shall be expressing our views on the various agenda items when they are taken up over the next few days. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia, on behalf of GRULAC.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Hungary, on behalf of the European Union.

**Mr. E. BOTH** (On behalf of the European Union) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and the potential candidates, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, as well as Armenia, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Norway, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, associate themselves with this statement.

At the outset allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for chairing the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we are confident that under your able guidance the Committee will achieve valuable results.

Space activities are expanding and their importance is crucial. Space is a resource for all countries in the world. Those which do not yet have space activities will have them in the future therefore the EU considers it necessary to ensure greater security in outer space and believes a pragmatic and incremental process can assist in achieving this goal.

The EU is committed to the development and implementation of transparency and confidence building measures as a means to achieve enhanced safety and security in outer space. We are also particularly sensitive to the issue of risks posed by space debris which are detrimental to present and future activities. In its reply to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/75 in September 2007, the European Union underlines the voluntary rules of the road on outer space activities endorsing best practices between space actors would serve this objective.

The European Union has launched a proposal for an international code of conduct for outer space activities and has elaborated a preliminary draft. The EU has conducted extensive consultations and, in the light of these consultations, we have produced a revised version of our first draft code of conduct on the basis of which the EU Council gave mandate to the EU High Representative on 27 September 2010 to carry out further and wider consultations.

The draft code is based on three principles - freedom for all to use outer space for peaceful purposes, preservation of the security and integrity of space objects in orbit and due consideration for the legitimate security and defence needs of States. Our proposed draft foresees that the code would be applicable to all outer space activities conducted by States or non-governmental entities. It would lay down the basic rules to be observed by space faring nations in both civil and military space activities. Due to the overarching nature of the code, it would not be appropriate to table the draft code in any existing forum competent on civilian outer space activities like the UN General Assembly Fourth Committee, COPUOS, or disarmament like the UN General Assembly First Committee or the Conference on Disarmament.

The EU is in the process of consulting with as many countries as possible to discuss this proposal and gather their views. In addition to bilateral consultations, we are considering the possibility of organizing a multilateral experts meeting before the end of 2011 to discuss our initiative. This multilateral experts meeting will serve to prepare the ad hoc diplomatic conference, open to participation by all States on a voluntary basis, at which the code will be open to signature.

Now, let me to summarize the main features of the European Space Policy and the activity of the Hungarian Presidency. The main priorities of the European Space Policy are two important space applications, namely satellite navigation and global monitoring for environment and security.

The European Space Agency (ESA) focuses on research and development of space systems and in their applications, while the EU brings a clear picture of how space can best serve Europe’s citizens, European policies and provides additional financial resources to the space programmes that implement these policies. We develop our flagship programmes, the Galileo and the GMES programmes, in close co-operation with ESA. The space components of both systems are under preparation. Further priority areas are, inter alia, space and climate change and space exploration.

During the Hungarian Presidency, the EU continued the work started under the Belgian Presidency. We regard the space sector as a very important one for the European economy, for research and development. Very recently the European Space Policy received new impetus with the insertion of the new provision of Article 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of European Union. We continued the work in the Space Working Party, established last year under the Belgian Presidency, and the Competiveness

Council also discussed space related topics. Earlier this year we co-sponsored the conference 'European Autonomy in Space', organized by the European Space Policy Institute, here in Vienna. In May we hosted a workshop in Budapest on space-related research and development activities within the EU seventh Framework Programme.

The regular EU–ESA Ministerial Level Space Council meetings have affirmed that space exploration is a political and global endeavour and Europe should undertake its action within a worldwide programme. Moreover, the Space Council underlined the value of space exploration for inspiring young Europeans to choose a career in science and technology and to strengthen these capabilities in Europe.

The seventh Space Council was held in Brussels on 25 November 2010 under the co-presidency of Belgium, from the side of EU, and Italy from ESA. This was the first Space Council after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009. The Space Council in its resolution, global challenges: taking full benefit of European space systems, adopted at this conference, invited the EU, ESA and their member States, the three pillars which European Space Policy rests on, to further develop an overall space strategy and reaffirmed that Europe should continue to develop world class space infrastructures and applications, as well as to rely on efficient operational space systems to serve its citizens.

Mr. Chairman. Allow me to reiterate in line with our commemorative statement, that after half a century we can affirm that COPUOS has fulfilled the task specified by the General Assembly 50 years ago. Over the last decades, COPUOS laid down a firm legal basis for all forms of space activities which provide for the application of international law and promotion of international cooperation and understanding in space activities, the dissemination and exchange of information through transnational direct television broadcasting via satellites, remote satellite observations of Earth and general standards regulating the safe use of nuclear power sources necessary for the exploration and use of outer space.

We are confident that current works within COPUOS, notably on the theme of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and associated legal, economic and political issues, will constitute further important achievements and contributions from COPUOS to the general framework of the peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore the EU notes with appreciation the establishment of a working group on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and calls upon member States the agile adoption of its terms of reference so that the working group can start its substantial work as soon as possible.

To conclude my statement, I underline the support of the European Union to the dedicated work of COPUOS, ensure you of the support of the EU and wish COPUOS further successes during this session, as well as for the future. Thank you for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Hungary on behalf of the European Union for his statement.

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

**Mr. C. MANANGAN** (Philippines) Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues. I would like to express my greetings and appreciation on your chairmanship of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the preparations required for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, the year 2011 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first period of the sessions of COPUOS and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight. The Philippines expresses its deep appreciation for the work that COPOUS and its two subcommittees have done in order to promote international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Philippines believes that more efforts should be devoted to strengthen the use of space technology in the area of disaster risk reduction and management. Collaboration and effective use of space-based information should be improved, providing better chances and opportunities for developing countries to avail of space-based information especially during occurrences of natural disasters. In this context, the Philippines acknowledges the UN SPIDER programme's assistance given to the country in previous natural disasters.

Finally, in this context the Philippines also _____(?) OOSA and member States to make available more opportunities for greater educational linkages and further cooperation between universities and other international institutions of learning on space law with similar institutions in developing countries. Thank you.

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

Now I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Peru.

**Ms. A. ESPINOZA** (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Chairman. I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair to this fifty-fourth session of the Committee. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for all the documents that have been made available for this session.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and manned flight pays tribute to the progress that has been made in the exploration of outer space and the peaceful use for the benefit of human development.

We have been very active to continue to try to link up with the entire international space development sector in order to derive some of the benefits of space technology. We have established our National Commission for Aerospace Research and Development (CONIDA) whose task it is to disseminate the benefits of space technology at national level and to help us with things such as disaster management. These are issues that we are most concerned about.

Starting in 2002, we established a special aerospace _____(?) system for the Amazon working with Brazil and this has helped us preserve our natural resources and the Amazon basin, for example, assessing and checking deforestation. We would like to say that space technology is critical when it comes to managing natural disasters, they could be exacerbated by the negative impact of climate change this is something that is a critical issue for my country because we are also familiar with the impact of climate change and how much rebuilding holds back a country's development.

Here we would like to pay tribute to the work of the Committee through the UN SPIDER programme and through the training programmes that have been established and that Peru would like to participate in most actively.

Chairman. We are aware of the fact that the use of modern space technologies and the use of information coming from the satellite observation systems is of utmost importance if we want to promote sustainable development. This is why we would like to hail the efforts of this Committee and all of its subsidiary bodies as well as the programmes of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs since they are for us an excellent vehicle for international cooperation and makes it possible for all countries to derive benefits from this through the exchange of experts experience etc. We are keenly interested to continue to participate in all of the different activities that are carried out by the Office. Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. T. NAKANE** (Japan) Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates. Let me begin with expressing our thanks, on behalf of the Government of Japan, for having a minute of silence for the victims of the great earthquake in Japan proposed by the distinguished representative of Greece.

It gives me great pleasure to address you today on behalf of the Japanese delegation. I would like to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu, to members of the bureau and to Dr. Mazlan Othman and her devoted staff for their untiring efforts in preparing this Committee. I would also like to compliment our predecessors whose work and vision are manifested today here in the successes of the Committee.

I am proud to be able to take part in the historic anniversaries being celebrated at this commemorative session, the fiftieth anniversary of COPUOS, a committee which has been cultivated from its inception through international cooperation and the fiftieth anniversary of human space exploration, a true hallmark of human achievement.

Mr. Chairman. Nearly three months have now passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck our country. The overwhelming support we have received has come in many forms, from donations to helping hands, to thousands of satellite images provided to us through the International Disaster Charter and Sentinel Asia. These images have been used to assess areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami and I, on behalf of the people of Japan, wish to express my sincere gratitude for this and all forms of crucial support provided to us in our national time of need. Reconstruction is already underway and we strongly believe that Japan will re-emerge from this disaster as an even more beautiful and wondrous country.

Mr. Chairman. Under the basic space law, enacted in May 2008, Japan promotes space development and utilization based on stipulations within international agreements and on the principle of pacifism enshrined within the Constitution of Japan. In

June 2009 it was decided that the basic space plan for space policy could be the platform upon which to build Japan's national space strategy. Although initially applied over five years, this incremental strategy allows for a decade of planning and development. Last year Japan developed a policy on the promotion of space policy for the time being which deals with the development and utilization of rockets and satellites as well as enhancement of space technology and scientific and technical capability. Japan continues to make space policy development a priority.

Mr. Chairman. Japan is promoting international cooperation in the utilization of space technology in various fields, I would like to outline them here.

Mr. Chairman. First, let me touch upon the various space experiments which have been undertaken in the Japanese experiment module, Kibo, which is named after the word 'hope'. We are achieving reliable results in the field of high quality protein crystal growth which contributes to innovative drug development, biological and material sciences and, astronomical research. In addition the Japanese astronaut, Satoshi Furukawa, will begin his long-term stay on the ISS this month, the third such mission featuring Japanese astronauts. Two more Japanese astronauts are scheduled to work on long-term missions on the ISS next year and astronaut, Koichi Wakata, will lead the ISS expedition mission crew members as the first Japanese commander. We will continue to promote ISS cooperation and _____(?) of Kibo as one of the ISS project participating countries.

Our asteroid explorer, Hayabusa, which is the Japanese word for 'peregrine falcon' successfully overcame a number of difficulties and, after a seven-year trip through space, returned to Earth last June. An initial analysis of particles brought back in its sample container is being conducted at present. It is our expectation that future analysis of these particles will bring about scientific results which will contribute to an increased understanding of near-Earth objects (NEO).

These space science and technology achievements are not only the culmination of our most advanced scientific and technological endeavours but an investment in the dreams and hopes of future generations. It is important that space assets contribute to the solution of outstanding global issues. The Japanese Advanced Land Observing Satellite, Daichi, meaning 'earth ground' in Japanese, conducted observations for five years and three months, shooting about 6.5 million images of our planet before the termination of its operation on 12 May of this year.

The use of Daichi has aided Japan in the promotion of SATREPS, the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development, whose purpose is to deal with global issues such as warming, disaster reduction or epidemiology, as well as to support developing countries. Images acquired by the land observing satellite have been used for carbon management of peat in Indonesia, and for monitoring washout of glacial lakes which pose flood concerns in Bhutan. Daichi has also provided invaluable information, through observation of approximately 100 large-scale disaster-stricken areas per year, including observations of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Japan plans to engage in follow-up satellite projects, which will benefit from and build further upon the successful programme created around Daichi.

The Ibuki satellite, which is the word for 'breath' in Japanese, observes the concentration distribution of Earth's greenhouse gases from outer space and has contributed to the international effort to prevent global warming. Ibuki is expected to start providing net absorptions and emissions data covering almost the entire surface of the Earth this month. It is hoped that this data will illustrate the difference between, for example, the emission of $CO^2$ and the absorption of $CO^2$ by forests.

Space application needs vary widely within Asia from country to country and it is with this in mind that the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) was created. APRSAF which will celebrate its eighteenth anniversary this year, is an open forum which allows the participation of every nation. The Sentinel Asia project is just one example of a Forum initiative that has benefited from inclusive participation, supporting our view that APRSAF can be seen as a regional space cooperation model for the rest of the world.

Mr. Chairman. COPUOS is the sole venue where the widest range of nations and experts may meet to share information, insights and experiences, ensure transparency and promote mutual confidence, thereby seeking common ground on a range of different concerns, including preservation of the space environment. Now, 50 years after the achievement of the first human space flight, space assets and applications are needed not only for ensuring economic and social activities and safety and security on Earth but also for dealing with issues such as, environmental matters and natural disasters. Therefore, it is essential to all of humankind that we fulfil our obligation to

further develop and secure peaceful uses of outer space. Japan will present its views on the importance of long-term sustainability of outer space activities during the agenda item dealing with the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman. Allow me to conclude on a somewhat personal note; I am truly delighted that Dr. Horikawa, technical counsellor of JAXA who is sitting next to me, has been nominated as the Asian Group candidate to succeed Mr. Prunariu in the post of Chair of COPUOS 2012-2013. I am confident that the able Dr. Horikawa will contribute significantly to fruitful discussions at COPUOS with his substantial knowledge and experience in the field of space activities. I am also pleased to acknowledge the contributions of fellow Japanese national, Mr. Doi, chief of UNOOSA, and his great performance in the face of various challenges, such as capacity building in developing countries. The dedication of these two individuals exemplifies Japan's commitment to the work of COPUOS. Japan will continue to contribute, most notably in the areas of science, technology innovation and the continued provision of competent personnel to see that the invaluable work of COPUOS continues ensuring that those who follow after us have before them a bright future in space. I thank you for your kind attention.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished Ambassador Nakane on behalf of Japan for his statement.

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

**Mr. A. KHASAWNEH** (Jordan) (*interpretation from Arabic*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the name of God the most merciful and compassionate.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. At the outset I would like to extend to you, on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and on behalf of the delegation participating in this session and as Director-General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center, my congratulations to all those who have organized this fifty-fourth session of COPUOS, in particular the Chairman of COPUOS as well as the Director of OOSA, Ms. Mazlan Othman, and her team for good management and organization. I would also like to congratulate all those present on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the first human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity of being present here in this major event after the series of measures which we have taken in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in coordination and collaboration with OOSA as well as the permanent mission of Jordan here in Vienna and the national competent authorities in Jordan, to declare to you that my country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is expressing here its desire and readiness to host the regional centre for space science and technology in western Asia. Its headquarters will be based in the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center which enjoys all the infrastructure as well as the specialized human resources in the areas of survey sciences, cartography, remote sensing techniques, geographical information system, digital space imaging, satellite imagery processing as well as hardware and software which are all available. We also coordinate with academicians and specialized experts in various research and science institutes and various Jordanian universities. I have the pleasure to confirm here that we are ready to take all measures needed to inaugurate that centre in 2011 and we hope that the inauguration will take place under high royal patronage.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. Allow me here to give you a brief overview of the developments which we went through before creating this centre. Indeed, the idea of creating a regional centre comes from the GA resolution 45/72 of 1990 regarding western Asia, which comprises all Asian Arab countries. OOSA, based on that resolution, has created a committee to evaluate all countries that could host that centre and Jordan and other Arab countries have expressed their desire to host that important centre.

In 1998, OOSA sent a mission of experts to the region to evaluate the potential of countries and their capabilities in terms of hosting that regional centre. At that time Jordan was selected considering the infrastructure amenities as well as research and scientific centres and qualified professionals that it enjoyed. In 2000, Jordan welcomed officially the hosting of that regional centre as contained in UN document A/AC.103/736 as well as A/AC.105/804 in paragraphs 65 and 53 of each document respectively. Indeed, the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences, which I have the honour to Chair, has also expressed its support to the creation of that centre in Jordan. Correspondence has been going back and forth between Jordanian authorities, as well as OOSA, in order to officially declare the hosting of that regional centre. However some circumstances have prevented us, at that time, from creating the centre. Then, during the session of the STSC between 7-18 February 2011,

the subject was brought up again by our mission in Vienna, whom we thank, and the Director-General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center as well as the Secretary-General of the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences, requested our mission here in Vienna to send a memorandum to OOSA to inform it of the desire and readiness of Jordan to host the regional centre. OOSA, who we thank profusely, has distributed that memorandum to member States as well as observers informing them thereof.

On 6 May 2011, I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting the Director of OOSA, Dr. Mazlan Othman, as well as Dr. Hans Bold the person in charge of regional programmes and I have informed Dr. Othman of Jordan's readiness to host the centre and indeed she provided me with all the necessary information as well as the agreement which will be signed to create that regional centre. She mentioned to me that the prime ministry of Jordan must distribute memorandum to all missions in Vienna and in Amman informing them thereof. This has taken place and we have also taken upon ourselves to inform all Arab countries regarding the organizational structure of the centre as well as its educational programmes. This is taking place now and the Geographic Center is also coordinating with competent authorities in Jordan as well as with the Al-Bayt University, the Meteorology Department and the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences in addition to the Supreme Council for Science and Technology and various specialized academies.

Ms. Mazlan Othman also has asked Jordan to make a statement during this fifty-fourth session of COPUOS to inform COPUOS of the creation of the centre. We did that in coordination with our mission in Vienna and the Director-General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center. We are now officially declaring that the regional centre will be opened in 2011 and Jordan will thus be the regional headquarters for teaching space sciences and technology for western Asia.

In addition and in conclusion, I would like to thank all parties and all actors who have helped us achieve that goal. I would especially thank here the Director of OOSA, Dr. Mazlan Othman, as well as our Ambassador, Makram Queisi, Ambassador of Jordan in Vienna. I would also like to thank the representative of Oman Dr. _____(?) who is participating today and who has constantly helped us and supported us in creating that regional centre. He has even offered to host the tenth Astronomical Congress which will take place in February 2012 in Oman, in cooperation with the International Astronomical Federation, as well as NASA and other institutions. I would like to invite all those interested to participate in that congress. Thank you very much.

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

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

**Mr. H. HUANG** (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*) Mr. Chairman. I am delighted to return to COPUOS after nine years of absence, I am delighted to see so many old colleagues. You are still very active on the platform created by COPUOS. First of all, allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the Chinese delegation for presiding once again over the proceedings of this session and to thank Dr. Othman, Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for the hard work in preparing for this session.

Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, colleagues of the aerospace community from around the world were gathered here to celebrate the 50-year jubilee of the UN Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and manned space flight. The commemorative segment was very successful yesterday, we adopted the Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of COPUOS and human space flight, that was an historic outcome of this session of COPUOS. The Chinese delegation congratulates the Committee on this achievement.

Mr. Chairman. Looking ahead, the Chinese delegation proposes that, in the next 50 years, we should put inclusive development on the agenda of space development so that the benefits of space activities can benefit all countries so that space technology innovation and applications can maximize their benefits and benefit all populations especially populations of those countries that do not yet have space capabilities.

The inclusiveness of space development has multiple connotations. First of all, inclusive development is about inclusiveness towards the space environment. Exploring and using outer space should be harmonized with the space environment and integrated with the sustainable development of outer space to protect the space environment that is the common property of humankind.

Secondly, inclusive development is about inclusiveness towards all countries. All countries, regardless of their size and strength, have equal rights to make peaceful uses of outer space. Every citizen of

this planet is entitled to partake of the efficiencies and comforts of life brought about by space technology and to admire the splendour and profundity of space at closer range.

Thirdly, inclusive development is about inclusiveness towards all humankind. Outer space exploration broaden people's horizons and impart a sense of continuity to human history. These fruits of inclusive development are bound to transcend national boundaries and enable human beings to gain a deep understanding of their own species.

Mr. Chairman. Looking back at the history of COPUOS and that of manned space flight, it would be remiss of me not to touch upon international cooperation and rule of law in outer space. In order to realize inclusive development in outer space activities in future we should keep up the development of international cooperation and rule of law in outer space. International cooperation is not only a product of successful experience of humankind's exploration and use of outer space but also a basic guideline that steers the space activities of various countries. As the actors in outer space exploration diversify and the realm of outer space exploration broadens, our space undertakings are faced with unprecedented opportunities and challenges. We can seize the opportunities and overcome the challenges and realize sustainable and inclusive development of outer space only if we are committed to mutually beneficial open and inclusive international cooperation on an equal footing and enable more countries that do not yet have space capabilities to become involved.

Space law is an important safeguard for building harmony in outer space, preventing the weaponization of outer space and realizing sustainable development of outer space. All the treaties, principles and declarations, established under the stewardship of COPUOS, have made important contributions to regulating space activities, keeping order in space and promoting space cooperation. The outer space activities of any and all countries should consistently be guided by these treaties, principles and declarations and conducted in accordance with the law. Furthermore, the tendency of commercialization of outer space activities and the palpable risk of militarization of outer space requires the enactment of new space law instruments to improve the existing space law regime and safeguard the inclusive development of space endeavour.

Mr. Chairman. In conclusion, at this solemn historic juncture along the continuum between the past and the future, I would like to reiterate on behalf of the Chinese delegation that China will continue to abide by the concept of harmony in outer space and work with the international community in a joint commitment to the inclusive development in outer space activities to build an outer space of peace, development, cooperation and rule of law. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Mr. H. FAZELI** (Islamic Republic of Iran) In the name of God the compassionate the merciful.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure, Mr. Prunariu, to congratulate you to lead the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I am confident that your vision, enriched by your knowledge, your long last experience and your feel of space will lead our meeting to a full success. We very much appreciate the valuable efforts of the outgoing bureau and the chairmanship. I assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation. I wish also to express my gratitude to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director-General of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, UNOOSA, and her colleagues for an effective leadership which has made international cooperation in general and our collaboration in particular, effective and promising. We wish our cooperation and mutual understanding enable us not only to promote and _____(?) advanced space science research and technologies but also to make the quality of life more fruitful for all nations of the world now and in the future to come.

Benefiting from this valuable opportunity I also take it as a privilege to congratulate all member States and indeed the world society on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight.

Mr. Chairman. Iran, as one of the founding members of COPUOS, has continuously supported and contributed actively to the work of the Committee to uphold the fundamental principles governing space activities. In this context, as well as interests of national developments, it was necessary to review the Iranian Space Agency's organizational structure to suit its current and future mission.

Mr. Chairman. Today I am pleased to report that the first step has been taken since our last meeting

both in respect of upgrading our position in the government hierarchy as well as upgrading our organizational structure. The first step was towards removing our organization from information and communication necessary and positioning it under the auspices of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran where legal formalities and procedures are going on. Furthermore, all space activities in Iran, including activities of the two leading Iranian research centres will be conducted under the supervision of the Iranian Space Agency. This important step shall enhance endeavours towards our common goal of serving humanity by peaceful uses of outer space, establish close scientific relationship with the leading universities is also promoting academic contribution in this direction.

Mr. Chairman. We have a number of micro-satellites and national satellite projects in hand. Kavoshgar or Explorer was launched successfully in March 2011 with a sub-orbital exploration payload. This will hopefully serve as a valuable experience for our future major projects. Our newly established tele-medicine project is running smoothly. The forthcoming tele-medicine workshop in Tehran with the cooperation of UNOOSA is promoting the same objective. The Iranian Space Agency, as a custodian of the whole space projects of the country, is now _____(?) of all projects from conceptual design to the actual use of technology, this requires continuous capacity building. Establishment of a national space laboratory as well as expanding research centres with close cooperation of academic institutions is a move towards this direction.

The Iranian Space Agency is actively present in many international and regional fora and contributes in relevant activities such as cooperation in the establishment and attendance in the Asia Pacific Space Corporation Organization (APSCO), active participation in United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response. Moreover, we look forward to any mutual cooperation with developing countries which enhance peaceful space activities.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. My delegation would like to express sincere wishes for successful conclusion of our gathering and assure you of our fullest cooperation. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the strong belief that outer space is a common heritage of mankind and a global understanding and action towards peaceful uses of outer space without any discrimination is a key element towards serving mankind effectively. Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you very much distinguished representative of Iran for your statement.

I would ask delegations that have inscribed their names for this afternoon's session for statements if they are ready now to present their statements because we still have time. Romania, Chile, Ukraine, Canada, Pakistan, Greece, Malaysia - is anybody ready for their speech now?

The distinguished representative of Malaysia you have the floor.

**Mr. M. SUBARI** (Malaysia) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of my delegation I would like first to express our confidence in seeing you again as the Chairman of this fifty-fourth session of COPUOS, together with your two vice-chairs. We are confident that under your able leadership, your team as well as the _____(?) assistants from the UNOOSA Secretariat under the leadership of Dr. Mazlan Othman this meeting will be successful.

We would like to record our gratitude and best wishes to the fiftieth anniversary of this Committee. Undoubtedly this Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, COPUOS, has served well its purpose of creation in promoting international collaboration in space for the betterment of mankind.

Mr. Chairman, following other member States we would like to start our statement by offering our deepest condolences to the government and people of Japan on the recent devastating event of earthquake and tsunami that cost thousands of casualties and loss of life and property damage. The assistance and help that Malaysia has extended, although not as much, is more on proof of sympathy and true friendship. The visit of our Prime Minister himself to Japan recently is the _____(?) sincerity. We hope that Japan will quickly recover from this catastrophe and continue with its development programme.

Again, Mr. Chairman, our technological advancement and initiatives up to current especially in space-related technology is still no match to the challenges that we face. For this continuous advancement and collaborative efforts within all of us are clearly needed.

Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to briefly report in this meeting progresses in space-related activities of my country that we have achieved since the last UNCOPUOS meeting in June last year. The education component of the space programme will continue to be

our important agenda. The National Planetarium continues to be our primary facility in this important mission apart from other education _____(?) programmes. The National Space Challenge is in its fourteenth year in 2010, we are getting primary schoolchildren with this innovative and creative modules. This year it has attracted 9,151 participants in the programmes. The water boosted rocket competition for secondary schoolchildren attracted more than 5,000 participants and the winner was sent to the APRSAF Water Rocket Event in Melbourne, Australia.

The year 2010 has been celebrated as the year of innovation and creativity. The Malaysia Innovative 2010, or MI 2010, is a nationwide programme in pushing the agenda of creating an innovative and creative nation in moving towards the nation's vision of 2020. A special programme to promote the importance of space venture among youth, the Angkasawan challenge was organized by the Malaysian Angkasawan Foundation, about 10,000 youth participated. This year, 2011, has been declared as the year of science and mathematics promotion with its motto 'go science - love math'. The coming year 2012 will be declared as the year of science in collaboration with global celebrations.

Work in the development of the ground infrastructures including the assembly test integration at the facility for small satellite _____(?) is progressing well. The facility is expected to be completed by end of this year and operating fully by mid-2012 in time for the development of our second remote sensing satellite. Earlier this year the government has approved the development of RazakSAT-2, the second remote sensing satellite. The satellite is scheduled to be developed in 2012-2014 and launched in 2015.

The micro-gravity experiment is becoming an important space science programme. To ensure continuous support from the highest policy making body, a special briefing on the micro-gravity scientific experiments conducted in the Angkasawan programme was given to Malaysian Members of Parliament in July 2010. _____(?) the effort in _____(?) up the national space policy a two-day national workshop was organized in November 2010. The workshop was more meaningful with the attendance of the Director of UNOOSA, Dr. Mazlan Othman, who delivered a talk on the development of space programme, global scenario, and assisting in the review of the space policy draft. A national workshop on the current advancements of global navigation satellite system technology and applications was organized in September 2010. The workshop was attended by various government as well as industry users of NSS.

Mr. Chairman. Malaysia believes in the strategic importance of international collaboration in our space ventures. The collaboration with Japan's Space and Exploration Agency (JAXA) in the protein crystallization in space continued for its second year in 2010. At least eight more proteins were taken up to the International Space Station to be crystallized. The programme will end in 2012. The other collaboration with JAXA is in organizing parabolic flight competitions to local universities. This budding programme focuses future space scientists and engineers to plan for creative and innovative experiments in 20-second micro-gravity condition through parabolic flights in Nagoya, Japan. This should promote greater awareness on the utilization of the space environment and to develop human resources for future space-related programmes.

With the Institute of Biomedical Problems (IBMP), Russia, we are involved in the Mars-500 project. This year early data of the scientific experiment of the Mars-500 project were obtained recently. Our scientists were encouraged by the results. The experiments will continue until next year.

Within the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), engineers from Malaysia have participated in the STAR programme since last year. Collaboration in satellite development programmes involving several member countries of APRSAF with an objective to increase its capability in satellite technology. Another initiative of APRSAF is in the Space Seed for Asian Future or Seed programme. Some local seeds were brought to the International Space Station by JAXA in January 2011, retrieved several months later, I believe hitching a ride on board the final mission of the shuttle Endeavour yesterday, back to Earth. The seed will then be given to groups of secondary schoolchildren, will grow them together with control seeds for comparison, making scientific observations along the way. The programme is with the objectives to promote awareness of micro-gravity science amongst them and develop their interest and skill in scientific research.

Within the Asia Pacific regional initiative for disaster management, Sentinel Asia, Malaysia was recently accepted as a data analysis node. With this role, Malaysia hopes to actively contribute towards this initiative. Within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) the country continued to participate in the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology or ASEAN COST initiatives.

As part of the International Space Weather Initiatives (ISWI), Malaysia has formed a national

space weather initiative working committee involving related agencies, universities and industries. The _____(?) are to develop space weather research programmes in Malaysia and to educate and promote space weather to the public. Several instruments from the ISWI programme are based in Malaysia, amongst them is the Magnetic Data Acquisition System (MAGDAS), African GPS Receivers for Equatorial Electrodynamics Studies (AGREES), Scintillation Network Decision Aid (SCINDA), Compound Astronomical Low-cost Low-frequency Instrument for Spectroscopy in Transportable Observatory (CALLISTO) and the Sudden Ionospheric Disturbances (SID) instruments. In relation to these initiatives there will be an International Conference on Space Science and Communication (IconSpace2011) in July this year organized by the National University of Malaysia (UKM) with a theme towards exploring the equatorial phenomena.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. With what has been done and what we will carry out in the future, my delegation would like to reiterate on our commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space and will continue our support to this cause in ensuring space as a common heritage of humankind. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Now I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of India for his statement.

**Mr. S. SHIVAKUMAR** (India) Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation is delighted to see you in the Chair guiding the deliberations of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee. We are confident to achieve significant progress under all agenda items identified for this session under your able chairmanship and UNOOSA's active support. The Indian delegation expresses deep grief over the loss of thousands of precious lives due to the recent natural disasters in many countries.

Mr. Chairman. While acknowledging the significant achievements of various member States with space endeavours during the last year, the Indian delegation desires to brief the Committee on the significant achievements made by India.

On 12 July 2010, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C15) on its sixteenth successive successful flight placed CARTOSAT-2B and four auxiliary satellites namely, StudSat built by Indian students, Alsat-2A from Algeria, and 6.5 kilograms and 1 kilogram from Canada into their respective orbits. CARTOSAT-2B is augmenting the high resolution imaging capability of India by providing better _____(?). StudSat, a pico-satellite, weighed less than 1kg and built jointly with ISRO by students from a consortium of seven engineering colleges in India. On 20 April 2011, PSLV-C16, on its sixteenth successive successful flight, precisely placed Resourcesat-2 and two auxiliary satellites, namely YouthSat and X-Sat, into their intended orbits. Resourcesat-2 is augmenting the multi-spectral imaging capability of India as a follow-on mission to Resourcesat-1 which has already started providing excellent quality images. YouthSat, a small satellite built with the participation of Moscow State University and X-Sat a small satellite built by Nangyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore, with ISRO support, are also performing satisfactorily. On 21 May 2011 India's advanced communication satellite GSAT-8 was successfully launched by ArianeSpace from Kourou in French Guiana. GSAT-8 carries 24 Ku band transponders and a navigational payload, GAGAN, that will provide GPS signals with improved accuracy.

An advanced communication satellite, Highly Adaptable Satellite (HYLAS), built by ISRO on a commercial basis in partnership with EADS-Astrium of Europe, was successfully launched on 27 November 2010. HYLAS has 10 high powered transponders in Ka and Ku bands and is designed to deliver high speed broadband services through its spot beams over Europe. On 25 December 2010, GSLV-06 mission with GSAT-5P communication satellite failed seconds after lift off. Detailed analysis and exact reasons for the failure have been carried out and corrective measures are being implemented for future flights.

Mr. Chairman. India has achieved significant progress in the last year _____(?) GSLV Mark III, a heavier class launch vehicle capable of launching 4-ton class communication satellites in the geostationary transfer orbit. The second stage testing of liquid core stage, L110, for 200 seconds was successfully conducted in September 2010. The second static test of S-200 solid booster is planned this month.

Mr. Chairman. In the coming months, ISRO aims to augment India's constellation of remote sensing and communication satellites. Currently, preparations are on to launch GSAT-12, a communication satellite with 12 extended C-band transponders; Megha-tropiques, a joint mission with CNES for tropical atmospheric studies, RISAT-1 Radar Imaging Satellite for natural resources management; SARAL, another joint mission with CNES for studying the ocean surface; and GSAT-14, a

communication satellite with 6 extended C-band, 6 Ku band transponders and a Ka-band beacon.

In the area of space science and exploration. SRE-2, the second Space Capsule Recovery Experiment to perform micro-gravity experiments; Chandrayaan-2, a joint lunar mission with orbiter land rover; AstroSAT, the first Indian space-borne observatory for multi-wavelength observations of the celestial bodies and cosmic sources and; Aditya-1, a spacecraft to study the solar coronasphere, are planned in the near future.

Mr. Chairman. India's space programme continues to integrate the advances in space technology and applications with the national developmental goals particularly in vital science areas such as telecommunications, television broadcasting, meteorology, disaster warning, as well as natural resources survey and management. Many national and regional programmes of societal relevance are continued apart from newer initiatives to reap the space-based products and services to society.

Mr. Chairman. India places considerable importance on international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space. Currently, formal instruments of cooperation are _____(?) more than 35 countries and international organizations. Recently, cooperation instruments were signed with the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA), to cooperate in the peaceful uses of outer space and with Russia, to cooperate in satellite navigation. India is committed to share its satellite data with ASEAN countries for disaster management support and to establish a network of weather stations in _____(?) countries to _____(?) storm predictions.

Mr. Chairman. India continues to share its expertise and services in the application of space technology for capacity building. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the Asia and Pacific region, affiliated to the UN and operating from India, has so far benefited 994 scholars from 31 countries in the Asia Pacific region and 28 scholars from 17 countries outside the Asia Pacific region. In 2012, India will be hosting two major _____(?) events, the COSPAR Scientific Assembly and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Plenary.

Mr. Chairman. In conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to greatly acknowledge the efforts of UNCOPUOS to maintain outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and fully support it in all its endeavours. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Mr. D. KENDALL** (Canada) (*interpretation from French*) Thank you Chairman. The delegation of Canada is very pleased to see you once again sitting in the Chair for the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. You can rely on us to extend to you our full cooperation.

I would like to take this opportunity also to express our gratitude to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Madam Othman, for her tireless efforts and constant support from her staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs over the past year. Canada would also like to thank Mr. Ulrich Huth, the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as well as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the excellent work that they have accomplished over the past two sessions of these subcommittees. The subcommittees have made considerable progress thanks to their dedication. We encourage further efforts in order to strengthen the ties between these two subcommittees and with COPUOS, this way we can foster a better dialogue among members and more effective follow-up to a new work that is undertaken within COPUOS.

Chairman, before I proceed I would like, on my own behalf as well as on behalf of my delegation and my government, to extend my heartfelt condolences to the people of Japan and to the families of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan on 11 March this year. My government would like to reiterate its support to the Japanese Government and we do hope that Canada's contribution to the images databank, that was supplied to Japan under the International Charter on Space and Natural Disasters, will have been useful in organizing the relief effort and to the planning for reconstruction. Our thoughts also go out to those who are victims of other disasters that have befallen many people around the world, including people in Australia, Pakistan, Colombia, Brazil and, most recently, the United States. All of these countries have had to contend with exceptional events without mentioning Haiti, Chile and Venezuela which have had to deal with the aftermath of devastating earthquakes. We see a rising number of large-scale natural disasters across the globe and so the international community should act in unison through considered action in order to provide data using space-based systems in order to provide an effective and rapid response to these disasters minimizing their impact on people and infrastructure.

(*continued in English*) Mr. Chairman, respected delegates. I would like to comment briefly on the agenda of this fifty-fourth session of the Committee. This year again my delegation will address a number of important subjects in addition to discussions that will be held on the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and on the Legal Subcommittee.

We will present a statement on agenda item 6 on the ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Canada is very active on this file and continues to support the Project Ploughshares Secure World Foundation initiative called the Space Security Index. Under agenda item 3, implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, my delegation will share with the Committee the results of the final document of the Action Team 6, use of space applications to improve public health, A/AC.105/C.1/L.305, presented to member States of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee last February. This report summarizes important observations on the current state of the application of space technology, tele-health and tele-epidemiology, stresses the need for better delivery of health and public health services through space applications and provides concrete recommendations that can be undertaken at the national, regional and UN level both by member States and organizations.

Canada has become a key player in the development and use of the advanced space-based AIS (Automatic Identification System) technology with the launch, in April 2011, of the exactEarth Ltd AIS payload designed and built by the Canadian company Comdev International and integrated onto the Indian Space Research Organization's ResourceSat-2 Earth Observation Satellite.

Canada will also enthusiastically take an active part in and contribute to the important discussions of the working group on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. We hope that strong direction will be taken by member States in relation to this Committee before the end of this session in order to adopt the terms of reference that will provide clear directions on further activities. My delegation will seize the opportunity to work within the working group on near-Earth objects and Action Team 14 to strengthen the ability of the international community to develop early detection and precision tracking of any potential NEO threat. We welcome the progress that was made during the 2011 STSC session and we look forward for other fruitful discussions.

Mr. Chairman. I would like to note for the member States that the Canadian Space Agency was officially accepted, in 2010, as the twelfth member of the Interagency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC). Canada will do its best to contribute positively to the important work of the Committee. In addition, we are exceptionally pleased to announce that IADC accepted Canada's offer to host the thirtieth meeting of the IADC in May 2012 in Montreal, Canada, and that I personally accepted to act as the chairman of this Committee for the next year.

Canada supported the adoption of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines in 2007 and hopes that the exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation between member States will help encourage a more widespread implementation of the current Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. Canada supports and will strongly contribute to the International Space Weather Initiative by providing data gathered by its ground and space-based geospace monitoring network and instruments. Canada also continues to work closely with its international partners in international fora such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Group on Earth Observation, the World Meteorological Organization where David Grimes of Canada has recently been elected President, and the International Telecommunication Union.

The multiplication of space activities from States and now from the private sector has created an ever more congested space environment. In order to maintain the benefits that space has to offer, Canada encourages adhering to the existing international legal framework governing outer space activities and to encourage implementation of the guidelines designed to _____(?) conduct in space. Canada reiterates its strong support for the core United Nations conventions on outer space and welcomes further initiatives aimed at strengthening them, in particular those led by the European Commission toward the development of a code of conduct for outer space activities.

Mr. Chairman. Canada pursues its multilateral collaboration and contributes to international efforts to increase scientific use of the International Space Station. Last November, Canada renewed its partnership with the European Space Agency through the Canada/ESA agreement. As a cooperating member of ESA for more than 30 years, Canada has been involved in a number of collaborative projects and has developed a solid expertise in a number of key technologies in space exploration, Earth observation, telecommunications and navigation.

I would like to invite all member States who wish to obtain further information on Canada's national space activities in 2010 to consult the four national reports on international collaboration, space debris, space weather and on near-Earth objects, published by the Secretariat at the beginning of this year.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that Canada will pursue its strategic objectives during the coming year by collaborating with its partners on significant international projects that will encourage sharing knowledge and the development of Canadian space industry.

Over the past 50 years the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has played an important role in the establishment of peaceful dialogue among member States by encouraging discussions and cooperation on issues of major importance for the international community. As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee Canada hopes the Committee will continue to contribute for many more decades to the advancement of human activity in outer space by encouraging discussions among member States and by focusing its activities on the political, legal and scientific issues linked to an efficient, sustainable and fair development and use of outer space. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Ms. N. MAYSHEVA** (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*) Thank you Chairman. Distinguished chairman, ladies and gentlemen, first and foremost our delegation would like to express profound sympathy to the delegation of Japan which suffered, in March of this year, from a powerful earthquake and the ensuing tsunami taking a heavy toll of human life. Ukraine, as a country which experienced Tschernobyl, well understands how aggressive the so-called peaceful atom can be and it sincerely expresses the wish that Japan may effect an early recovery from the consequences of the accident at the nuclear power plant Fukushima 1.

Chairman. May I inform the members of the Committee on the main achievements of Ukraine in the field of its space activities over the last year. First of all I would like to point out that the benchmark for the development of space activities this year has been a concept approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in March of this year for implementation of Ukraine's State Policy in the field of space activities up until the year 2032. It is precisely on the basis of this policy document that bills will now be prepared as well as activity plans and other documents governing space activities, in particular State-wide space programmes.

At present Ukraine is continuing its implementation of the fourth State-wide dedicated scientific technical space programme for the period 2008-2012. Ukraine continues to remain committed to an international legal order established by the five UN treaties on space as well as other international instruments in the field of research and use of outer space. In pursuing this course our country has continued to enjoy fruitful cooperation with partner countries.

Over the last year in particular intergovernmental agreements have been signed on space issues with the governments of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and Saudi Arabia. Thus, in March of 2010, we signed with the Russian Federation an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of the use and development of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) and a bilateral protocol on issues of intellectual property recently entered into force. A number of bilateral documents have been signed with China in the course of the visit to that country by the President of Ukraine in September 2010. These include a Sino-Ukrainian programme for cooperation in the field of research and use of outer space for peaceful purposes for the period 2011-2015. The programme has included more than 50 joint projects, in particular we are planning to create a joint space-based Earth observation system, joint implementation of an ionospheric satellite project for creating an earthquake forecasting system as well as a number of others. A plan for cooperation in space activities has been signed between the national space agencies of Ukraine and Kazakhstan for 2010-2011. We have reached a number of important agreements on cooperation on space matters with the European Space Agency, Canada, Germany, and other countries.

Beginning with 2009-2010, launches of Ukrainian made rocket launchers have been carried out taking into outer space 17 spacecraft. Just in the period from 1991, 120 launches have been carried out with the help of Ukrainian rocket launchers. Cooperation is being expanded with the United States of America particularly in the context of the production of the rocket launcher, Taurus-II, ordered by the American Corporation Orbital Sciences. There is active continued

implementation of the joint Ukrainian/Brazilian project Cyclone-4.

In September 2010, construction began on a terrestrial launching complex at the site of the Alcantara cosmodrome from which launches of rockets of the Cyclone-4 new generation will be carried out. Today, hundreds of firms from both parties are involved in implementing this project. Tentatively it is next year, 2012, when one may expect the first launch in the context of this project. This month, June of this year, there is a scheduled launch of a Ukrainian satellite for Earth remote sensing, known as Sich-2.

We would like to point out that in recent years the space sector of Ukraine is increasingly coming down to Earth, that is, it is facing up to the problems of society and societal development. The State Space Agency of Ukraine is now working in close conjunction with the Agricultural Ministry especially in the field of macro-valuation of crop surfaces, on issues of harvest determination, agricultural resource research and forestry, among others. There is a steady expansion of cooperation with the Emergencies Ministry especially in respect of joint implementation of a natural disaster prevention programme. For example, during the summer fires last year, efficient fire outbreaks was carried out according to a methodology developed by the _____(?) firm. We are continuing effective implementation of environmental monitoring.

Chairman. Our delegation feels that it is important for there to be a discussion of all the issues on the agenda of this Committee's session and we would like to express our position on some of them.

Under item 5, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, we would like to reaffirm our assessment of the role of the Committee as the most important forum for discussing an international legal regime for activities in outer space as well as regional, interregional and global cooperation among States to implement the basic principles of space activities that can safeguard the security of space.

At the same time, our delegation would like to stress that there is a degree of ambiguity in the norms of international space law with respect to demilitarization of space. The Space Treaty in article IV proclaims the principle not of full but partial demilitarization of outer space. States are not entitled to place in near-Earth orbit nuclear weapons or any other type of weapon of mass destruction, such as chemical, biological and other weapons of similar destructive force. At the same time, the Space Treaty guarantees full demilitarization for the Moon and other celestial bodies. Here there is prohibition of testing of all types of weapons and the use of these bodies by States is only allowed for peaceful purposes. This ambiguity of the principle of demilitarization of space has an adverse impact on the development of space activities particularly with respect to its military component. We think it would be advisable to develop the international legal regime further in this field by developing an international legal instrument which would place a barrier in the way of militarization of space and which would contribute to bolstering the ethical foundations of space activities.

The delegation of Ukraine notes with satisfaction the positive significance of annual consideration by our Committee of the question of implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III which is fully consistent with General Assembly resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004. As a starting point for this analysis, we would consider the resolution on space on the threshold of the millennia, the Vienna Declaration on space activities and development of human society which has as its cornerstone for space activities the guaranteeing of sustainable development. Among the specific means which might be used, or by which one might use space-faring for achieving sustainable development, it pinpoints education, health, environmental monitoring, rational use of natural resources and prevention and clear up of emergency situations, prevention of climate change, inter alia. The main goal of sustainable development amounts to striking a balance between the three components of development, the economy, the environment and the social sphere.

This global aim is one of the development goals set forth in the UN Millennium Declaration which all member States of the United Nations pledged to attain by 2015. Our delegation views the contribution of the Committee to ensuring sustainable development of society as a productive one. In recent years there has been an enhancement of coordination between the Committee and the Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations. At the same time, the multi-faceted nature of sustainable development activities calls for even closer integration of all the UN structures and agencies that are involved in such activities. First and foremost, one such as UNEP, the Department for Economic and Social Affairs of the UN, the UN Development Programme, Habitat, the UN's regional institutions such as the Economic Commission for Europe as well as other regional, subregional and international bodies.

The United Nations system with its multisectoral potential has unique capability for providing assistance to governments in achieving sustainable development goals. In addition to effective integration of these structures, there also needs to be a more clear delimitation of their purview so that each link in the UN system occupies its own niche and does not overlap with other links rather it would dovetail with them in order to achieve the agreed goals of sustainable development which was a special focus of the agenda for the twenty-first century.

The problem of climate change is one of the most crucial problems of modern times since the very survival of humanity is related to it. In global terms, climate change is now being seen in global warming and ensuing glacier melting as well as ozone layer destruction, desertification processes, that is soil fertility loss, biodiversity loss, as well as other factors. It is for this very reason that, beginning in the 1990s, a number of international legal instruments were adopted on climate change. For example, the UN Framework Convention on climate change, the Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substances, and the Kyoto Protocol on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, as well as a whole host of other instruments. The problem of climate change is one which has to be addressed at the global level, therefore the role of space research needs to be decisive in this context. This role is related to two components, the obtaining of source data for the adoption of managerial decisions at all levels and, secondly, subsequent monitoring of the effectiveness of such decisions. We believe that it is precisely in this sphere of climate change that space faring and space science can show its full potential for resolving the problems of humankind.

Our delegation also thinks it is important to consider the agenda item at this session on space and water in the context of the international decade of action, Water for Life 2005-2015. Water is life and the problems related to it are becoming worse year on year. Today there is an active discussion underway of the water resource crisis and the role of space research should be decisive in resolving such water problems such as the quest for water supply sources, natural disaster prevention with its effects on water, water contamination monitoring, trans-boundary waters, guaranteeing environmental and hygiene security of drinking water supply sources, preservation of water bio-resources, and integrated water management. The coordinator of the Water for Life decade 2005-2015 is the interagency mechanism of the UN, known as UN-Water Resources, in the context of which all agencies, departments and programmes involved in water supply issues are called upon to interact. Our delegation feels that the Committee on Outer Space should cooperate more closely with the appropriate mechanism in order to identify possible additional areas of technologies in the service of resolving global and regional water problems.

Chairman. In conclusion, may I assure all those present of the sincere intent of Ukraine to develop international cooperation in space _____(?) to benefit all humanity and also stress the fact that our State is absolutely prepared for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in space activities. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** (*interpretation from Russian*) Thank you for your statement, representative of Ukraine.

(*continued in English*) The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the World Space Week Association.

**Mr. D. STONE** (World Space Week Association) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman for the honour to address the Committee. World Space Week Association congratulates the Committee on its historic fiftieth anniversary. Congratulations also to you, Mr. Chairman, on the anniversary of your space mission and on your chairmanship of this historic session.

As I think you all know, World Space Week was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 as 4-10 October annually after the recommendation of UNISPACE III. Since then, thanks to participation by the global space community, World Space Week has achieved significant scale on impact. We will be honoured to make a presentation to the Committee on this subject tomorrow, so I will keep my remarks today brief.

I do wish to draw the attention of the Committee to a document that was distributed this morning, it is ST 56, Report on World Space Week 2010. This report summarizes last October's World Space Week which included nearly 600 events which were held in 63 States. I congratulate all the participating States and organizations in this achievement and we thank Dr. Othman and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for publishing this beautiful report.

I wish to recognize several States for the scale of their World Space Week celebration last October. Romania, for the greatest number of events; India, for the greatest attendance and; Pakistan for the greatest media coverage - congratulations to each of you.

As we look forward to this October's World Space Week and, in keeping with this special anniversary year, the theme will be 'Fifty years of human space flight'. We encourage all space organizations globally to hold events that week to share the excitement of human space flight with students and the public.

I wish to express my gratitude for the dedication of the members of the distinguished World Space Week Association Board of Directors, we thank OOSA for allowing the Board to meet during COPUOS, tomorrow during lunch. If any delegations wish to send an observer to the Board meeting or have any questions about World Space Week, please contact me.

Finally I thank you Mr. Chairman for your support for World Space Week. The Association wishes you the greatest success during your historic chairmanship of the Committee. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of the World Space Week Association.

Now I give the floor to the distinguished representative of APSCO.

**Mr. W. ZHANG** (Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization) Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to congratulate you for the excellent chairmanship and I am very appreciative to your introduction about APSCO in your statement also.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. It is my great honour to make a statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization. At first please allow me to congratulate you on the fiftieth anniversary of UNCOPUOS and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight. I would like also to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and her dedicated team for the invaluable assistance in the preparation of this session. APSCO is committed to continue our fruitful cooperation with the Committee and during OOSA.

Since the last session of COPUOS, APSCO has received very positive response from its member States with full financial commitment and special donations from the Chinese Government. This is very important to the sustainability of this organization as it is truly supported by member States contributions.

Another exciting news we have is that Turkey has completed its domestic formal _____(?) and is now a full member of APSCO. We have also explored possible participation with members of other nations and await their positive response. Its growth is of great satisfaction to all member States of APSCO and indeed, the space community as a whole.

APSCO has started a number of projects that are under implementation. The _____(?) sharing service platform is now in the development phase through open contract bidding and will be operational in the middle of next year. The remote sensing satellite projects _____(?) specification have been confirmed by all member States and the request for interest has received positive response from the space industry worldwide. The space science project, the navigation project and the space objects observation system are all being carried out in addition to the small student satellite project and communication satellite project. With a limited staff and resources, APSCO is gaining momentum in all aspects.

In addition to these projects and with the recognition of the dangers of earthquakes APSCO, jointly with the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, is organizing an international symposium on earthquake monitoring and early warning using space technology. This event will be held in Beijing, China, in September this year supported by the UN SPIDER office in Beijing and Chinese industry. All experts in this field are welcome to this event.

Education and training programme is one of the traditional APSCO activities and master of space technology application degree education programmes have been continuously implemented for the past three years with 40 students graduated already. Short-term training courses have never stopped since the last seven years and this year it will be held in Bangladesh, focused on disaster and environment monitoring from space. This construction of the education and training centre of APSCO is under intensive discussion among its member States now. The third and fourth Council meetings were held in Beijing and Bangkok respectively. A number of rules and regulations to guarantee APSCO's smooth running has been approved by the Council. It is also worth mentioning that APSCO is also very active in space law and with full respect to the space treaties of the United Nations. APSCO is actively participating in a number of space law fora and preparing work for the establishment of an APSCO research centre for space law and policy is being carried out. I would like to express my appreciation to UNOOSA for their guidance and support for these events.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. Since its establishment 50 years ago, COPUOS has become the primary international venue for deliberations and action over peaceful uses of outer space and greatly contributed to the promotion of international cooperation in this field. I also noticed in the adopted Declaration yesterday it especially emphasized the regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activity is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space. As an intergovernmental organization, based on the convention, APSCO is established to contribute to this enterprise pursuant to its own objectives in promoting space cooperation in the Asia Pacific region. It is our sincerest hope that all countries in this region can join our effort and share the benefits through cooperation in the future 50 years. Thank you for your attention.

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

Distinguished delegates. Before adjourning this morning's meeting I would like to inform you about the schedule of work of the Committee for this afternoon.

We shall meet promptly at 3 p.m. At that time we will continue with agenda item 4, general exchange of views and will begin our consideration of agenda item 5, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and agenda item 8, report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session.

There will be three technical presentations this afternoon. The first one by a representative of Japan, the second one by a representative of Chile and the final one by a representative of Mexico.

I would like to recall that today, at lunchtime, all delegations are invited to a reception hosted by the delegation of Japan to take place from 1 to 2.30 p.m. in the Vienna International Centre, Mozart Room.

Now I give the floor to the Secretariat to make an announcement concerning videos in this room today.

**Mr. N. HEDMAN** (Secretariat) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Distinguished delegates, there will be two video screenings today starting at 2 p.m. in this conference room. The first one 'A Japanese doctor travels to space' by Japan. The second one 'A world without satellites' by France. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the Secretariat for the announcement.

Today, in the evening, I would like to cordially invite delegates to attend the international astronauts and cosmonauts panel discussion that will be held in the Vienna City Hall, Volkshalle, at 7 p.m. Astronauts and cosmonauts, Alexei Leonov, Leland Melvin, Chiaki Mukai, Claude Nicollier, Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, Gerhard Thiele, So-yeon Yi, Yang Liwei, me and others, will discuss the future of humankind in space. The event is organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in cooperation with the city of Vienna. Invitations have been distributed to all delegations.

I would also like to announce the special space food events. You have received a leaflet with space food menu, prepared by the VIC cafeteria in cooperation with UNOOSA, from 1-10 June. There will also be a special Malaysian space food tasting tomorrow, Friday, at 1 p.m., please note the change in time of the food tasting, it is 1 p.m. in the VIC Rotunda with the guest presence of the Malaysian astronaut, Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor. You are most welcome to join us tomorrow at 1 p.m. for the Malaysian space food tasting.

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

The meeting is adjourned until 3 p.m. this afternoon.

*The meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.*