

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Fifty-fourth session**

Unedited transcript

641st Meeting

Thursday, 9 June 2011, 3 p.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Dumitru Dorin PRUNARIU (Romania)

The meeting was called to order at 3.12 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN Good afternoon distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 641st meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 15, other matters. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 16, report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Following the plenary there will be three technical presentations. The first by a representative of Chile, entitled 'Google Lunar X Prize, an opportunity for Chile's participation in space exploration'. The second by a representative of India entitled 'Space and water: benefiting agriculture in India' and the third by a representative of the Russian Federation entitled 'Space Debris Mitigation: Russian Experience'.

Other matters (agenda item 15)

Distinguished delegates I would now like to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 15, other matters. I have received a request from the delegation of Venezuela to speak under this item at this meeting.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

Mr. F. VARELA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Mr. Chairman and a hearty good afternoon to you. Taking into account the

contents of A/AC.105/2011/CRP.6 we are struck by the fact that of the 21 organizations only 11 have fully complied with the requirements for admission to permanent observer status on this Committee.

As you recall at the last session, we had a very interesting debate on NGO participation in COPUOS and made substantial headway reflected in paragraph 311 of the Committee's 2010 report. Nonetheless, this delegation feels obliged to recall that, inter alia, we considered having a look at NGOs which have been admitted and whom we subsequently never saw in the meeting room. The question arose as to the norms or standards which should govern NGOs which, at one point in time, are granted observer status and subsequently in no way contribute to the work of the Committee. That while clarifying the rules for entry it is also important to have exposed rules regarding criteria for remaining a permanent observer. On this basis, my delegation wish to state the view that the Committee should keep this item on its agenda on an ongoing basis under the item, other matters, and it should afford an opportunity for discussion to define the mechanism whereby NGOs can retain their permanent observer status with COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, an institutional arrangement means meeting minimum conditions in order to justify fairly the acceptance and the continuation of the status of these NGOs with the aim of promoting and implementing activities which have a regional and/or global impact which is consistent with the goals of the Committee. Thank you very much.

In its resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that, beginning with its thirty-ninth session, the Committee would be provided with unedited transcripts in lieu of verbatim records. This record contains the texts of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages as transcribed from taped recordings. The transcripts have not been edited or revised.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week of the date of publication, to the Chief, Conference Management Service, Room D0771, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.

V.11-83761 (E)



The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Venezuela for your statement.

I have to tell you that paragraph 311 from the last year's report of the Committee, it is acting and we will continue to take the same measures stated there.

Are there any other comments?

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*) Mr. Chairman. The proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Venezuela is very important, nonetheless it is important to bear in mind that these NGOs which obtain observer status differ by virtue of their status and their age as well. There are striking differences between certain NGOs which have existed for half a century and others that have been born recently. This must also be borne in mind when we look at their respective activities here within COPUOS.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Any other comments?

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) My delegation has no comments on this question concerning the NGOs, we have already expressed our views, but my delegation would like to make a specific proposal on something unrelated for consideration by the Committee. So, with your permission Mr. Chairman, I would like to proceed.

As many of you are aware, we held informal consultations during the lunch break to discuss possible events that could take place next year in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of Landsat. We believe that it would be interesting for the Committee to commemorate this anniversary, not necessarily because of Landsat itself but because for many experts using Landsat data was their first experience in the peaceful uses of outer space and many space agencies that are represented here today had their origins in either operating a Landsat ground station or exploiting the data. During these consultations we came up with the following recommendation to the Committee that we would like you to consider.

First that we set aside one meeting of the full Committee next year, that would be either from 10-1 or 3-6, for a panel discussion on Landsat and the evolution of land remote sensing and we would look at perhaps having some of the early pioneers in the land

sensing area come and speak or have other experts to share their experiences.

Secondly, we would suggest that there would be an exhibit concerning Landsat as well as land remote sensing and its evolution.

Thirdly, we suggest that the Office for Outer Space Affairs be the coordinator for this activity. We have a list of contacts now, based on the informal consultations earlier this afternoon, and OOSA has agreed that they would keep that contact list up to date, so if there are any members of the Committee should we decide to proceed along these lines that would be interested in participating in this task force that they could contact OOSA directly.

What we would propose again is that we agree to have some kind of commemorative event of the Landsat programme and land remote sensing in general to be held in June. We would have a task force that would communicate electronically on possible speakers, on possible contributions to an exhibit and that that would be coordinated by OOSA and that we could also have a planning meeting on the margins of the next Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would be more than willing to answer any questions delegates might have and, if everyone agrees, then I would propose that we have consensus language in the report. Thank you.

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

Are there any comments on the proposal made by the United States and how to reflect it in the report? I see none.

So we will reflect then in the report the result of the consultations you had during this break connected with the fortieth anniversary of Landsat.

Any other comments? Considerations under agenda item 15, other matters?

Mr. F. ROMERO VÁZQUEZ (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) This is a matter which has to do with the group of experts that has been working this week in a parallel way and we reached decisions which I would like to share with the plenary.

As a part of the Space Conference of the Americas, in article 14 of the declaration it is stated that there was a large amount of progress that was

made and, along with the Pro Tempore Secretariat, a committee was set up composed of the members of space agencies and/or the government responsible for these activities with a view to the arrangements and proposals for a draft mandate for the functioning of this space conference, the Pachuca statement will strengthen the Pro Tempore Secretariat as well as the conference.

A request was also made to the committee to have a complete report of activities and I think that the members of the group are working on this. It will be a succinct report and the Chair announced his resignation for personal reasons irrevocably and we recognized the great effort that was made by Ambassador González in his work over this period. The participants of the group decided to set up a transition coordination with the three countries, Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico, which will provide advice and guidance to the Pro Tempore Secretariat and in no event should the group of the agencies and the international group of experts oppose in their objectives but rather should be complementary in order to assist the work of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Space Conference of the Americas.

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished representative of Mexico, do you refer to the group of experts for the long-term sustainability that we discussed this morning? Or, what specifically do you ask to include in the report?

Mr. F. ROMERO VÁZQUEZ (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We were talking about the international group of experts which is a consultancy group of the sixth Space Conference of the Americas and we thought this announcement was essential because the Chair has resigned and we wanted to make public recognition of his efforts and also announce that there is the troika, these three countries, which will take responsibility for coordination until a new Chair is appointed.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of Mexico.

The second vice-chairman has the floor.

Second Vice-Chairman (*interpretation from Spanish*) I would not like to fail to avail myself of this opportunity to express gratitude and acknowledge the group of experts of the Space Conference of the Americas which culminated with the sixth Conference in Pachuca. This was a very successful event and, for reasons which were indicated by the representative of Mexico, for very personal reasons I decided irrevocably to resign from my position as Chair and I

will continue as an enthusiastic member of the group and I am certain that we are in very good hands and, as of now, I would like to express my confidence in the troika which will take responsibility for future action.

First of all, let me say that they can rely on my abiding support as things go forward and the international group of experts is carrying out a very vigorous and important task which not only has to have technical impact but political impact as well and that is a fundamental tenet of the group. So I would like to express much gratitude to my friends on the international group of experts and I am at your disposal, all of you, and I hope that my personal gratitude will be reflected in the report for work which I believe has been very fruitful because it has enjoyed the support of many of you who are present in this room and so as not to forget anyone I will not mention them personally. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much Ambassador Raimundo González.

Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes has the floor.

Mr. C. ARÉVALO YEPES (International Astronautical Federation) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I, too, will be very brief. I would like to express gratitude to the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Space Conference of the Americas for the honour of having been included, along with the other ambassadors, as part of the troika. We will take responsibility, as a troika, for the transition period. This is an institution which has provided great support to the Space Conference of the Americas and it has been chaired by Ambassador Raimundo González. I would like to express my deep gratitude to him and I am certain that he will continue to contribute, as he has for many years, to the international group of experts. I would like to thank the Pro Tempore Secretariat for taking this responsibility which I am certain will lead to even greater success in the process of cooperation in which we are ____ (?).

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes. So we understood the substance and the big help Ambassador Raimundo González put into the work and functioning of the Conference and we try to reflect in a way in the report his contribution.

Well, are there any other questions, comments, considerations, under agenda item 15, other matters? I see none.

We have therefore concluded our consideration of agenda item 15, other matters.

Adoption of the report

Distinguished delegates I would now like to proceed with the adoption of the report. The following parts of the report have been distributed to the pigeon holes of delegations during this meeting.

A/AC.105/L.281 and Add.2 and Add.4 to this document.

I hope you have in front of you these three documents, one document and two addendas. Until we proceed with the adoption of this document, the next part of the report will be ready and distributed to you.

We shall now begin with a paragraph by paragraph adoption of the first part of the report, A/AC.105/L.281, that contains the chapters on introduction and general exchange of views. I hope all delegations have before them this document.

Paragraph 1, any comments? I see none

Adopted.

Are there any comments on paragraph 2? The dots will be completed by the Secretariat. I see none.

Adopted.

Are there any comments on paragraph 3 regarding the commemorative segment? The number of the annexes will be included by the Secretariat. I see no objections.

Adopted.

Meetings of subsidiary bodies

Paragraph 4? Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 5? Any comments on paragraph 5? I see none.

Adopted.

Adoption of the agenda

Paragraph 6. Are there any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Membership

Paragraph 7. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Attendance

Paragraph 8. Sweden asked for accreditation, they will be included here. Are there any objections to paragraph 8?

Mr. H. TURPIN (Senegal) (*interpretation from French*) Senegal was omitted so if that could possibly be corrected. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you for your comment. Yes, Senegal will be included in the report.

Paragraph 8 with the inclusion of Senegal and Sweden. Are there any other comments? I see none.

Paragraph 8 adopted.

Paragraph 9. I see no comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 10. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 11. Any comments? I see none

Adopted.

Paragraph 12. I see no comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 13. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 14. Any comments? I see non.

Adopted.

Paragraph 15. I see no comments?

Adopted.

General statements

Paragraph 16. United Kingdom you have the floor.

Ms. L. KEYTE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Although I have no objection to delegates thinking that we have made some wise statements, this time I do not think the United Kingdom spoke under this general item. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much. Yes, we took you off paragraph 16.

Are there any objections on paragraph 16? I see none.

Paragraph 16 adopted.

Paragraph 17. Are there any objections? I hope not because it is my statement. No objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 18. Are there any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 19. I see no objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 20. I see no objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 21. Any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 22. Nigeria has the floor.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) I am sorry to bring you back to paragraph 21, I do not think that list of countries is complete. Australia is not there, United States is not there and I think a number of delegates referred to some of these countries. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN You refer to paragraph 21?

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) Yes.

The CHAIRMAN The Committee conveyed its condolences to the peoples of Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan. It was also Australia and the US? If it was reflected in the statements, we include them for sure.

We will come back to paragraph 21.

Portugal you have the floor.

_____ (Portugal) I think there was also reference to the extreme events in Brazil. The Committee conveyed condolences, including Brazil also. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of Portugal.

Mexico has the floor.

Mr. F. ROMERO VÁZQUEZ (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Also a reference to the disasters in the United States. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, thank you. Nigeria has pointed out the United States and Australia.

Any other comments on paragraph 21? We will include the US, Australia and Brazil. I see no comments.

Paragraph 21 with these amendments, adopted.

Paragraph 22. I see no comments.

Adopted.

Paragraph 23. I see no comments.

Adopted.

Paragraph 24. I see no comments.

Adopted.

Paragraph 25. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 26. Czech Republic you have the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) May I return for a while to paragraph 24. You refer here to

the 61st International Astronautical Congress held in Prague, that is correct. Then you refer to the International Astronautical Congress would be hosted by the government of South Africa, we should also add the order of this congress, that is, the 62nd International Astronautical Congress.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, we will include the number of the Congress. You refer to the Congress in the Czech Republic was 61st, South Africa will be the 62nd.

Nigeria has the floor.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) In paragraph 24 we might need to add the exact date of the meeting in South Africa, I think it is 3-7 October 2011.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Nigeria. Mexico has the floor.

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I apologize for being behind. In paragraph 23, where there is a reference to the presentation of Mexico on the Mexican Space Agency, there is a sentence which is missing. That presentation had a second part which was on the satellite system, MexSat, and I can hand this in, in writing, to the Secretariat with the full title. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Mexico. Yes, we recall Mexico had two presentations one after the other. The Mexican Space Agency and the satellite system of Mexico.

Mexico, you have paragraph 23 (b) satellite-based operational monitoring of the environment in Mexico. It was a different one? So you had three? OK, the third one will be included.

Yes, distinguished representative of Nigeria, we will include the dates of the 62nd International Astronautical Congress that will be hosted by the government of South Africa. Thank you.

The distinguished representative of India has the floor.

Mr. S. SHIVAKUMAR (India) Paragraph 23, today we had one presentation in the morning from India and in the afternoon we are going to have one more presentation. So I would request you include them in paragraph 23.

The CHAIRMAN We speak about the presentations under general statements. The presentations the first day, in the morning and afternoon. You had the presentation on the first day?

Mr. S. SHIVAKUMAR (India) Not the first day. Today we have one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN We will check exactly with the Secretariat where the presentation was and include it in the report.

Mr. S. SHIVAKUMAR (India) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of India.

Any other comments on paragraphs 23 or 24?

With the modifications proposed by Mexico and India to include the technical presentations that were made under the general statements.

We adopt paragraph 23.

Paragraph 24, with the modifications concerning the number of the Congress and the dates of the Congress, that will be included in paragraph 24.

With these modifications paragraph 24 adopted.

Paragraph 25 was already adopted.

Paragraph 26. No comments?

Adopted.

Adoption of the report of the Committee

Here we will fill in the number of the meeting and the date.

I see no comments on paragraph 27.

Adopted.

We adopt the document A/AC.105/L.281.

A/AC.105/L.281 is adopted.

Now we take Addendum 2 of this document, the commemorative segment. Annex I.

The Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. G. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) Please do understand us, given the fact that the text of this Annex II has just reached our desks in Russian, we would like to reserve the possibility through the Secretariat subsequently later to present our considerations or comments, if need be. If there are any divergences between the Russian translation and the English original which was just worked up yesterday. Thank you for your understanding.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

We could leave you a few minutes to study the document if you want.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) My understanding Mr. Chairman is that we are now considering Addendum 2 which is the commemorative segment of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee and that Addendum 4 contains Annex II which is the terms of reference that our distinguished colleague from Russia is referring to. I think we can proceed with Addendum 2 which is the commemorative report. Is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN Yes, that is right. What I indicated, we proceed now with Addendum 2 not Addendum 4. Addendum 4 we propose to discuss tomorrow morning, to have time to analyse. I think you refer to Addendum 4, distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

We proceed now with Addendum 2, with the considerations on the commemorative segment. Do you agree?

Paragraph 1 of Addendum 2. Are there any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 2. We have the countries, member States, taking part in the commemorative segment. Any comments? We will include Sweden. Any other comments on paragraph 2? I see none.

Paragraph 2 with Sweden included, adopted.

Paragraph 3. I see no comments.

Adopted.

Paragraph 4. Are there any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 5. They are the observers from intergovernmental organizations. Any comments?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) I would like to suggest a small editorial change in paragraph 4, there are two international organizations of the United Nations system. Should we not say instead of the United Nations entities, United Nations organizations. These are not only entities, these are organizations of the UN system.

The CHAIRMAN Actually, distinguished representative of the Czech Republic, the editors will determine the exact language for these organizations, they put entities. I do not know exactly why or how but...

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) In the law of international organizations we use the term organizations and not entities. It is our use for other bodies not for organizations.

The CHAIRMAN I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) One way of doing this is to say, observers for the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Telecommunication Union attended the commemorative segment.

The CHAIRMAN So the proposal is to change paragraph 4 and to say observers from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Telecommunication Union.

Are there any comments on this proposed modification?

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) Although we can go along with the proposal made by the Secretariat, I just looked at the list of the participants, we used specialized agencies. So, another way to address this issue is, observers for the following United Nations specialized agencies also attended the commemorative segment. I think specialized agencies is the agreed wording within the UN when we address IAEA and ITU. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of China.

So the proposal made by China is to say, observers from the following United Nations specialized agencies, International Atomic Energy Agency and International Telecommunication Union also attended the commemorative segment.

UK has the floor.

Ms. L. KEYTE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) I would prefer to go with the text that the Secretariat proposed as the intermediary solution specifically because the IAEA is not a UN specialized agency in its pure form. If we just name the organizations simply, this will save us the discussion on entities, organizations, etc. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of the UK.

The proposal that was renewed by the United Kingdom is to write observers from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Telecommunication Union and full stop.

Are there any comments on this proposal? I see none.

Paragraph 4 adopted with this modification.

Paragraph 5. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 6. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 7. The Russian Federation has the floor.

Ms. O. MOZOLINA (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) Paragraph 7 as far as we remember, most of those speaking at the segment referred to the flight of Yuri Gagarin so we believe that it would be historically proper and correct, given this important event, to add the following text 'It was also noted the historic role played by the first manned flight in outer space by Yuri Gagarin' and the date of the event is also given explicitly. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Can you repeat please the full paragraph.

Ms. O. MOZOLINA (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) Yes. The historic role played by the first manned flight in outer space conducted on 12 April 1961 by Yuri Gagarin.

The CHAIRMAN Are there any comments on the proposed reformulation of paragraph 7 by the Russian Federation? I see no comments.

We will include in paragraph 7 the comments made by the Russian Federation.

Paragraph 7 with the comment of the Russian Federation is adopted.

Paragraph 8. Are there any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 9. Are there any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 10. Here it is pointed out Gagarin and 50 years. Any comments on paragraph 10? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 11. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 12. It is about my statement. I hope you do not have any comments. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 13. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 14. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 15. Russia has the floor.

Ms. O. MOZOLINA (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) This time we will not be referring to Gagarin because unfortunately he was not at this round table but there is a minor technical

comment on the Russian and, for the purposes of the proceeds, I would like to say that in the Russian text it says that Alexei Leonov is the first cosmonaut to perform a space walk. It really has to be aligned properly to the English, that he is a cosmonaut of the Russian Federation and the first human to perform a space walk. This affects the Russian version which must be aligned to the English.

The CHAIRMAN The US has the floor and then Chile.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) I would just point out we need to make a correction regarding Mr. Leland Melvin, his title is Associate Administrator for Education of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. If you would please add 'for Education' after 'Associate Administrator'. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of the United States. So, Associate Administration for Education of NASA. OK.

Chile has the floor.

Mr. C. ORTIZ (Chile) The Spanish version should read, Agencia Chilena del Espacio and not ____(?).

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Chile. The correction will be made in the Spanish version of the document.

Spain has the floor.

Mr. S. ANTÓN ZUNZUNEGUI (Spain) Yes, also in the Spanish version, it states ____(?), it is better to say ____(?). (*interpretation from Spanish*) That is the translation for space walk in Spanish.

The CHAIRMAN OK it is about the space walk in Spanish. So the Secretariat has noted the modification in Spanish for space walk.

Any other comments on paragraph 15?

Switzerland, you have the floor.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*) Since we are checking out this paragraph in all the languages, let me just out therefore for the French version it currently refers to ____(?) it should be ____(?) but I am not sure

whether this is absolutely correct. Perhaps you could check with our French colleagues as well.

The CHAIRMAN If there are some inconsistencies in the formulation in French..

The delegation of France has the floor.

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) I am grateful to our distinguished Swiss colleague for having such a beady eye. We could leave it as it stands, if you added the word ____(?) I am not sure that was the normal parlance back at that period of time. I think that Mr. Leonov would probably be perfectly happy with the French version as it stands. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN So we leave the space walk in French as it is.

Are there any other comments? Philippines.

Mr. C. MANANGAN (Philippines) I would like to beg your indulgence but I do recall that there was some kind of tribute given to those who lost their lives in all of these space activities. I do not recall which delegation and I leave it to the body to reflect in their statement. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, it is paragraph 20 of the main document where we reflected it. Look in the main document, paragraph 20.

Venezuela has the floor.

Mr. F. VARELA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I do apologize but I was looking at the proposal made by Spain for space walk regarding ____(?), in fact in all our literature it is referred to as a ____(?). I know this cannot be literal but we, in Latin America, are familiar with the expression ____(?) for space walk and not ____(?), as suggested by the Spanish delegate. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you. I give the floor to the Spanish delegations.

Mr. S. ANTÓN ZUNZUNEGUI (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*) There is no problem Mr. Chairman, you can go ahead with that.

The CHAIRMAN OK we go ahead with the proposal made by Venezuela. There are more Spanish speakers in Latin America than in Spain.

Any other comments on paragraph 15? I see none.

Paragraph 15 with the modifications proposed in the English version and translated into all other languages for adding the correct function of Associate Administration of NASA and with the modification in Spanish, is adopted.

Paragraph 16. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 17. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 18. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 19. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 20. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 21. Any comments? Romania.

Mr. M. PISO (Romania) In order to unify the manner of reporting and consolidate the content, we suggest to include in the text the full name of all the three speakers. Another possibility could be not to mention the names of any speaker but we would prefer to mention them as we have already done in para. 9 of this paper. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Romania.

Canada has the floor.

Mr. J. CHOUINARD (Canada) If you can add also the name of Canada in the list of exhibitors on the last line. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN You mean paragraph 21? So the Secretariat explains that the name of the officials, except the name of Ms. Mazlan Othman, were already pointed out in paragraph 9 so, the only name that was not mentioned was the name of Ms. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Are there any other comments? Yes, France.

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) The paragraph does not mention the length of the exhibit. Could we add on the third line, international centre, and then we would say, during the month of June 2011. Just to indicate that it is going to last quite some time 'during the month of June 2011' would be our suggestion. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of France. The proposal is to introduce after, held in the Vienna International Centre, during the month of June 2011.

Are there any comments on the proposal made by France? I see none.

Are there any other comments on paragraph 21? I see none.

Paragraph 21, with the modification, adopted.

Paragraph 22. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

The declaration was adopted actually, so we have finished with this document.

We adopt A/AC.105/L.281/Add.2.

We will distribute now Addendum 1 and I give the floor to the Secretariat for some explanations.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) The Secretariat will now distribute in the room Addendum 1 so we can start adopting Addendum 1 while we have time.

To get back to the comment raised by the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation. All delegations have before them Addendum 4. In order to allow delegations to look through Addendum 4 which is annex II, the terms of reference, and to check carefully against the other languages, we propose to adopt Addendum 4 tomorrow morning before proceeding with the remaining addendas of the report. Addendum 4 will be adopted tomorrow morning.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information. Now it is 4.18 p.m. we leave you a few minutes to study Addendum 1.

Distinguished delegates, I propose that we proceed now with the adoption of A/AC.105/L.281/Add.1.

Recommendations and decisions

Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

Paragraph 1. Any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 2. Any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 3. I see no objections.

Adopted.

Paragraph 4. Any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 5. Any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 6. Any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 7. Mexico has the floor.

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) In the Spanish version of the text, in paragraph 7, fifth line, where there is a reference to the establishment of a space technical advisory group, we should change the order of the words, in the Spanish version. First technical, then space, which has no impact on other language versions necessarily and we also suggest that we should insert a sentence that says 'The Committee took note that Mexico is ensuring the Pro Tempore Secretariat for the sixth Space Conference of the Americas'.

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished representative of Mexico, could you repeat the last sentence to be introduced in the paragraph.

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I suggest that we should put in the following 'The Committee took note of the fact that Mexico ensured the Pro Tempore Secretariat

for the sixth Space Conference of the Americas 2011-2012'. Would you like me to hand this in, in writing? Did you take note of it?

The CHAIRMAN No, we get it, distinguished representative of Mexico. We will introduce the last sentence in paragraph 7, The Committee took note of the fact that Mexico ensured the Pro Tempore Secretariat for the sixth Space Conference of the Americas 2011-2012.

Are there any other comments on paragraph 7? With the corrections in Spanish and the addition of the last sentence proposed by Mexico. I see no other comments?

Paragraph 7 adopted with these corrections?

Paragraph 8. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 9. Japan has the floor.

Mr. M. SUGAMIYA (Japan) Since the schedule of the next forum is already set, I would like to propose the following. At the end of the sentence instead of 'in December 2011' 'from 6-9 December 2011'. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, indeed, we will include the exact dates of the forum, from 6-9 December 2011. Any other comments? I see none.

Paragraph 9 adopted.

Paragraph 10. I see no comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 11. I see no comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 12. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 13. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 14. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 15. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 16. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 17. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 18. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 19. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 20. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 21. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 22. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 23. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 24. China has the floor.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) Very briefly, we would propose to change the first four words of this paragraph 'the view was expressed' with 'some delegations were of the view that' because it seems to me that there was more than one delegation expressed that view. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished delegate of China.

Are there any other comments on paragraph 24? I see none.

With the modification proposed by China to start the paragraph with 'some delegations were of the view'.

Paragraph 24 is adopted.

Paragraph 25. Any comments? Saudi Arabia you have the floor.

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) Instead of 'the view' there is 'some delegation' because a lot of delegations has ...

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia for your comment.

Any other comments on paragraph 25? With the proposed modification by Saudi Arabia to start the paragraph with 'some delegations were of the view'. I see none.

Paragraph 25 with the proposed modifications adopted.

Paragraph 26. Are there any proposals, comments? China you have the floor.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) I look at the context of this paragraph ____ (?) we start with 'the view was expressed' or 'some delegations were of the view'. In this paragraph, although it is concerning the code of conduct of the European Union which ____ (?) the Committee noted the ongoing work. If I can suggest that maybe we should be consistent start with 'the view was expressed that ongoing work carried out..' and so forth. The last sentence would also be changed 'the consultation with other States were underway' ____ (?) 'the Committee also noted that'. It seems to me that I am ____ (?) Secretariat whether there is any difference, when you say 'The Committee noted' and 'the view was expressed'. It seems to me 'the view expressed' also be 'noted by the Committee'.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of China.

Distinguished delegate of Germany has the floor.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) I think that is a rather descriptive wording we have now in 26 and that is therefore justified to use a different term than in 24 and 25.

The CHAIRMAN Any other comments on paragraph 26? Germany proposes to keep the formulation as it is. As it will also be the case in paragraph 27. China has the floor.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) Although we can accept any discrepancy in the wording between different paragraphs but paragraph 26 is in nature different from paragraph 27. 'The Committee noted that the General Assembly in its resolution...' It is quite different from 'some delegations introduced some progress' in a regional organization. I just make my request again to the Secretariat. If my memory is correct that if, according to the practice we adopted for many years, if there is a view expressed by one delegation then we will put in 'the view was expressed'. If more than one then 'some delegations were of the view'. When we say 'the committee noted with satisfaction' it is different.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of China. As I understand it, here it is not a view, it is just an ongoing process and the Committee just took note of the process, not expressing a view. This is the understanding I have from the German delegation.

The delegation of Algeria has the floor.

Mr. M. OUZEROUHANE (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*) Along with China we agree with the Chinese delegation as concerns the European Union, this does not commit the entire Committee and that is not the way 27 presently is worded. We also believe that we should change the words 'the committee noted' by 'some delegations' or 'the view was expressed that' and then at the end we should say 'these delegations also noted that consultations...'. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of Algeria.

Ms. O. MOZOLINA (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) We would like to suggest by way of a compromise that we should say 'The committee took note' possibly this would more clearly delineate the connection between the Committee's work and the work done by the European Union.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

I give the floor to the Secretariat to make a comment.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Distinguished delegate of China asked the Secretariat for some clarification. The information in paragraph 26 is repeated this year as it was done last year more or less with a slight update as you can see. I refer delegations

to last year's report A/65/20, paragraph 38, where the Committee noted. That is how the Secretariat drafted this paragraph.

The CHAIRMAN I understand that it is the exact wording of last year's approved paragraph in the document mentioned by the Secretariat.

Venezuela has the floor.

Mr. F. VARELA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We have to look at who makes up the Committee, all of the members present here. I think all of us are familiar with this view expressed in this paragraph. In particular, we know that there is a code of conduct but we do not know all of its contents and that is why I fully concur with the delegate of China that we should say some delegations. If the Committee does say that it is fully conversant with the contents and scope of this code of conduct then OK, then we could make it general but I do not think that is the case. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished representative of France first, then Spain.

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) My delegation understands that this difficulty here in the way the Committee would like to take account of the fact that the European draft code of conduct for outer space activities was presented to the Committee. I would like to turn to the Secretariat and ask for its input, its suggestions. What is in paragraph 26 was presented to the States, this was in the statement of Hungary who spoke on behalf of the European Union States. Most cases when there is a progress report presented, I do not know what the usual traditional way is to reflect that sort of presentation. I would just like to say that the fact that the Committee noted the ongoing work being carried out does not predetermine whether or not this is going to be accepted, it just means that certain people in the room heard someone say something. Does it mean that they approved it or failed to approve it, there is no value judgement. At this juncture, we can just retain what we have here which indicates neither a favourable or unfavourable view. If the practice in the wording of the preceding reports is different to reflect the fact that a delegation presented to all of the members of the Committee a progress report on the work being carried, one has to see exactly how that is traditionally and properly to be reflected.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of France.

In my view, delegations agree and disagree or do not take note of the content of the code of conduct they just take note of the ongoing work that was already presented by Hungary. That is what I understand from the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. S. ANTÓN ZUNZUNEGUI (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I simply want to support the remarks made by the German and the French delegations and let me respond to the point raised by the Venezuelan delegation. If every time a delegation presents an issue or a fact or an item or mentions a conference to the Committee or the development of a process or any other type of factual event, if every time this happens there has to be proof adduced. I think we would be creating a major difficulty for the Committee. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Spain. Algeria has the floor.

Mr. M. OUZEROUHANE (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*) We can accept the initial language in this paragraph as this was supported by the European Union in September 2010 and if we have just that then we could delete the remainder of the paragraph. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Germany has the floor.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) Shortening the text is, in general, very helpful but we should not miss the important fact that consultations are underway with a view to reaching consensus on a text that would be acceptable to the greatest possible number of States, this is the dynamic element here and if we stop in September 2010 we would lose this momentum and I think it is important to keep the momentum.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Germany.

Are there any other comments?

Ms. O. MOZOLINA (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) We would like to support both Algeria as well as Germany and we would like to suggest that, in this paragraph, we retain the first sentence and the last one and strike the one which has to do with the substance of the document which is just being developed right now and which does engage in some evaluation thereof we think that is a little bit too early to venture into that. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Switzerland has the floor.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*) The Swiss delegation would just like to make a comment on the French version of this paragraph to bring it into closer alignment to the English and to reality as well. I am referring to the very last sentence of the paragraph which states, in French, that the Committee also noted that consultations with other States were underway, ongoing in French. Here it is 'some' consultations that _____(?) in French and consultations in English. These consultations are not exhaustive so possibly the French should reflect that. This affects only the French.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Switzerland.

Germany has the floor.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) In view that some delegations have problems with the middle part of paragraph 26, I could see a compromise in the following direction. We leave the first phrase and the last phrase that are objective, very descriptive elements and the contents of the code of conduct is reproduced in the indirect quote way, that means, the draft code was presented to include, as it was presented it was supposed to include, or something subjectively because the Committee as such may not subscribe to all the descriptions that are mentioned here but it was presented that way so we could restate that fact that it was presented by the European Union representative.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Germany.

So you mention that to replace the core, that long phrase about the code of conduct, just put the fact that the code was presented.

If you could phrase exactly the modification in the core document we will be happy with that.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) Then it would read as follows. The draft code of conduct was presented as to include transparency and confidence building measures and reflect a comprehensive approach to safety and security in outer space guided by the following principles, freedom of access to space for all for peaceful purposes, preservation of the security and integrity of space objects in orbit and due

consideration for the legitimate security and defence interests of States.

This decisive middle element would all be introduced, was presented as to.

The CHAIRMAN I understand. The proposal by the delegation of Germany is to take note of the fact that the draft code of conduct was presented as to include transparency... and so on.

Any other comments? Algeria.

Mr. M. OUZEROUHANE (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*) We would rather prefer the version, the alternative presented by the Russian Federation, in other words, just retain the first sentence and the last and striking the middle. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Algeria. First Spain, then Nigeria.

Mr. S. ANTÓN ZUNZUNEGUI (Spain) For sake of compromise, I have a suggestion in the line of Germany but slightly different. It would be to have another paragraph 26(b) and take out from 26 the sentence, draft code of conduct ..., and to have a 26(b) with 'the view was expressed that the draft code of conduct included transparency, confidence building measures' etc. etc.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, there were several member States that expressed the view and the view was expressed also on behalf of the European Union so the formulation would be 'some delegations were of the view' if you agree.

Are there any comments on the proposal made by Spain to take the core of paragraph 26 and to add paragraph 26 (b) with the content starting with 'some delegations were of the view that the draft code of conduct ...' and so on, the core of paragraph 26.

Nigeria has the floor.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) My delegation is surprised that we are going through this in such a tortuous manner. This is very simple language and I think what the Hungarian delegate supposedly stated is not even the language of Hungary but they were reporting to us as an example of what is happening somewhere else. When you come back and take a draft code and say the view was expressed that was not the view of anybody in this room, that is a statement indicating what is actually happening somewhere else

so it cannot be the view was expressed. The language of paragraph 26 as it is, I do not know why it is so difficult to accept because nobody is being asked to live with this, somebody is just reporting to us what took place somewhere else. My delegation is not yes or no about the paragraph because this is an innocuous, inoffensive paragraph, it does not do any harm to anything and why we cannot live with this simple paragraph.

If you look at paragraph 24, this paragraph 26 is being used to illustrate paragraph 24 which is equally in a draft form. The proposal from China and the Russian Federation and _____(?) is being used to illustrate that. Why are we arguing? We are not going to say yes or no, we just believe that this paragraph is an innocent paragraph and I do not see why we should be having all these arguments. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you to the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) Thank you for giving me the floor once again, due to time constraints I will not enter into any judgemental analysis whether it is usual language or not. May I make a proposal that, my question is about the second sentence of this paragraph, the Committee also noted that the consultation with other States were underway, it seems to me that language is not clear but I have heard many compromise proposals tabled to address our concerns, may I also propose to make a proposal that, keep the main parts of this paragraph and then leave the way for others to set another paragraph that will start from 'the view' or 'some delegations expressed the view' to address the contents of the code of conduct. For this paragraph we would like to propose the following.

The Committee noted that the ongoing work carried out by the European Union code of conduct for outer space activities which includes the consultations with other States with a view to reaching consensus on a text that would be acceptable to the greatest possible number of States and that the revised version of the draft text has been supported by the Council of the European Union in September 2010.

Then maybe others would like to have a separate paragraph to address the contents of the draft code of conduct it is OK for us but for this paragraph we want it very short. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of China.

Other comments?

As I understand it, the distinguished representative of China proposes the paragraph 26 _____(?) short and the core to be expressed in the new paragraph.

Nigeria.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) Can China read at dictation speed what he is proposing please.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) The new proposal would read as follows.

The Committee noted the ongoing work carried out by the European Union code of conduct for outer space activities which includes consultations with other States with a view to reaching consensus on a text that would be acceptable to the greatest possible number of States and that the revised version of the draft text has been supported by the Council of the European Union in September 2010.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of China.

Nigeria.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) The most important phrase for me and for my delegation in what the Chinese delegate has just stated is a draft text, the expression 'draft text'. What is that draft text? That draft text is what is explained at the beginning of line 4 of the existing paragraph 26. My suggestion is, let us take out what the Chinese want taken out, let us take it out, that is the definition of the draft text and make it as a footnote in this report, so that we know what the draft text is all about. Because just say draft text we do not know what is in it, by making it a footnote we see the message of the draft text and it is not a view of anybody in this room, it is a draft text of the European Union. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Germany has the floor.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) If we put it in a little paragraph restating the basic content of the code we could get out of any subjective element by repeating my idea, it was presented as, then we quote what was said to be but, in order for delegations to be able to check out whether that is a good description of the code as it stands now, we could put a quote with the Internet location. If that seems interesting for the Committee then I could forward a version of that.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Germany.

So you propose to maintain the first and the last phrase and about the content of the code of conduct to be a reference to the destination of the document.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) I try to base this proposal on the Chinese proposal in which we unite the first and the last sentence then we make an additional chapter and then we just describe how the code was presented by the representative of the European Union and, for delegations who have not seen in yet, we could put in a footnote the Internet link.

The CHAIRMAN And the description by the representative of the European Union to be in a separate paragraph?

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) That would be in a separate paragraph.

The CHAIRMAN Are there any objections in linking the first and the second sentences of this paragraph and to put in a separate paragraph the content expressed by the European Union of the code of conduct with a reference to the link on the Internet where it could be consulted by anyone.

Distinguished representative of Germany, what is your proposal on how to start the additional paragraph where the core of this paragraph is expressed?

France has the floor.

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) My delegation wishes to support the proposals made by the distinguished delegate of Germany. We would take paragraph 26 with the proposal from the distinguished delegate of China including the first and final sentence. The footnote could include when reference is made to the revised version of the draft as the distinguished delegate of Spain said there would be a *26bis* which would reflect the views of the group in the name of which it had been submitted and it would say 'some delegations were of the view' or 'noting that the draft code of conduct included' or something to that effect. So we would have one paragraph with an objective presentation saying 'the Committee noted' with the footnote and then we would have a second paragraph regarding the views of a certain number of delegations regarding this draft. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN United States has the floor.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) I am sure that there are others who share in my confusion as to what we are doing here. It would strike me as probably the best course forward is for the interested delegations to sit down and draft some language that we can all look at at a later stage because right now we have six or seven different proposals and we are not quite sure how all of this fits together. Rather than the rest of us being parties to this back and forth among a handful of delegations, why not go off and draft something that now we probably will have to look at tomorrow morning. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, distinguished representative of the United States. I agree with you. We keep paragraph 26 and wait for tomorrow morning for a written formulation of this paragraph made by the distinguished representative France together with Germany.

France please.

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) I am perfectly happy to have been volunteered by you. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished delegates. We now refer to paragraph 27, are there any comments on paragraph 27?

Adopted.

Paragraph 28. Any comments?

Adopted.

Distinguished delegates, the proposal is to stop here for today at paragraph 29 and to continue tomorrow morning and to listen now to the technical presentations proposed for this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates I would now like to proceed with the technical presentations. Presenters are kindly reminded that technical presentations should be limited to 15 minutes in length. The first presentation is by Mr. Klaus Von Storch of Chile entitled 'Google Lunar X Prize, an opportunity for Chile's participation in space exploration'.

[Technical presentation]

The CHAIRMAN Thank you Mr. von Storch for your presentation.

Is there any delegate who has questions for the presenter? I see none.

The second presentation is by Mr. D. Gowrisankar of India entitled 'Space and water: benefiting agriculture in India'.

[Technical presentation]

The CHAIRMAN Thank you Mr. Gowrisankar for your presentation.

Is there any delegate who has questions for the presenter? I see none.

The third presentation is by Mr. M. Yakolev of the Russian Federation entitled 'Space Debris Mitigation: Russian Experience'.

[Technical presentation]

The CHAIRMAN Thank you Mr. Yakolev for your presentation.

Are there any questions for the presenter? I see none.

Distinguished delegates I would now like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning. We will reconvene promptly at 10 a.m. I mention once again, promptly at 10 a.m. At that time we will continue our consideration of agenda item 16, report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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

This meeting is adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The meeting closed at 5.59 p.m.