

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

Unedited transcript

643rd Meeting

Friday, 10 June 2011, 3 p.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Dumitru Dorin PRUNARIU (Romania)

The meeting was called to order at 3.14 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN Good afternoon distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 643rd meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 16, report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Distinguished delegates I would now like to proceed with the adoption of the report. We will first proceed with the main part of Addendum 6, to be followed by Addendum 4 of A/AC.105/L.281.

We stopped at paragraph 32.

The distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic has the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) If I may recall before the break I asked for your permission to return to paragraph 19 concerning the membership of the Committee. In paragraph 19 the only sentence that is so far in the draft report correctly reports on welcoming of Azerbaijan as a new member of the Committee but if I may recall during the consideration of that issue, after the acceptance of the recommendation, I raised also one aspect that is very important in the opinion of our delegation in relation to all applications for new membership in the Committee. I brought to the attention of the Committee that unfortunately Azerbaijan so far has not been a Party to any of the United Nations space treaties and that it

should be expected for a new applicant that they would accede to the United Nations space treaties or at least to some of them. Therefore I would like to see the adding of a new sentence after paragraph 19 as 19(b) saying that the Committee advised Azerbaijan to consider the possibility of acceding to the United Nations space treaties or at least to some of them. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Are there any objections to the proposed paragraph by the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic? I see none.

Then a paragraph 19*bis* as it was proposed by the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic will be included after paragraph 19.

We proceed now with the adoption of paragraph 32 of Addendum 6.

Any comments on paragraph 32? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 33. Any objections? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 34. Concerning the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee. here the point 1 will be election of officers. As long as the Committee has a chairman and two vice-chairmen.

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.

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One will be election of officers and all other points of the agenda will follow after.

Any comments on the proposed modified paragraph 34? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 35. Any comments?

Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. G. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) I would like to recall what I thought was a very rational proposal from the representative of the United States which was voiced by him yesterday. It was proposed next year to consider not just the commemorative work pertaining to Landsat but to take advantage of the opportunity to look at the whole question of remote sensing in general. We think that this proposal from the United States is perfectly warranted and certainly deserves our attention. Should there be agreement in the Committee then I might propose a very minor adjustment to paragraph 35. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Yes please distinguished representative of the Russian Federation propose the modification.

Mr. G. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*) So I would like you to look at the fifth line from the top, [*continued in English*] at least two hours to the panel discussions, then we add 'dedicated to the said anniversary and the worldwide evolution of remote sensing of the Earth'. That is the first proposed insertion and then after the text with full interpretation 'and to organize a dedicated exhibition on the theme' that is option 2 on the theme where we can retain the text that was initially proposed 'on the fortieth anniversary of Landsat' then we would have to add 'and the worldwide evolution of remote sensing of the Earth'. So we have two options essentially. Thank you.

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

The Russian Federation proposes to add in the fifth line from the top after 'panel discussions' to add 'dedicated to the said anniversary and to the worldwide evolution of remote sensing of the Earth'.

Mr. G. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) That is option 1 just a short text. Only 'theme' and we

would prefer this option or either we continue with the text without these three words but add after 'Landsat' again 'and the worldwide evolution of remote sensing'.

The CHAIRMAN The United States has the floor.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) I greatly appreciate the proposal from the distinguished delegate from the Russian Federation, I like option 1, so we will just go with the first change and then delete 'fortieth anniversary of Landsat' and insert the word 'theme'. I think that is quite clear and its a very good addition. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of the United States.

So the second modification is just to add after 'dedicated exhibition' 'on the theme' and delete the rest of the sentence until the comma and then 'with the assistance of the Secretariat in preparing for those two meetings ..' and so.

Are there any other comments on the proposed modifications of paragraph 35? I see none.

Paragraph 35 with the proposed modification is adopted.

Paragraph 36. Here I give the floor first to the Secretariat to provide us with some comments.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) The Secretariat would just call the attention of delegations that we have been in contact with Editorial Section, we have been advised of the procedures for resolutions in New York that, if a text is adopted by one body and attached to its report it should not be attached to the resolution. I explained to the Editorial Section about our considerations, deliberations, discussions, on this particular topic and that is all I can say. The Secretariat is of course prepared, together with the Chair, to prepare the said resolution with the declaration attached to it as agreed by the Committee and then further discussions and deliberations have to be taken in New York. I thought that it was my duty to inform delegations here at COPUOS that this is a decision by the Committee and then it is for submission to the General Assembly and that is a complete different process. I wanted to make this clear to delegations what I have been advised by the Editorial Section that there might be concerns raised in the Secretariat in New York. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for these comments on the decision taken here and included in paragraph 36.

Is it necessary to make some modification to this paragraph, to fit to the demands of the Secretariat in New York? Or we leave it and we discuss in New York?

My proposal is to adopt paragraph 36 as it is and then in New York in the Fourth Committee could be comments and demands for modification.

Are there no objections.

We adopt paragraph 36.

Paragraph 37. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

In this case we have adopted entirely Addendum 6 of A/AC.105/L.281.

We consider Addendum 6 entirely adopted.

Now we proceed with the adoption of Addendum 4 of A/AC.105/L.281/Add.4.

Annex II. terms of reference and methods of work of the working group on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Introduction

Paragraph 1. Any comments?

France has a comment.

Mr. L. SCOTTI (France) (*interpretation from French*) My delegation has no comments on paragraph 1 but we would like to make a preliminary statement, a brief one, on this part of the report in general. As you suggested we took advantage of the lunch break to confer with several French-speaking delegations and between the English version, which is the one upon which the negotiations were conducted, and the French version there are some translation issues which we think could be put right.

At this stage, I would like to refer to four of them. The first is in French, reference is made just to _____(?) space, whereas in English it says outer space and in French it should _____(?), this is just for the

record by the way. Then the word 'input' in English is translated as _____(?) it should be _____(?) and then several times we have also seen some hitches with the translation. Reference is made space debris and the coordinating committee, this is an Interagency Coordinating Committee so the English term 'interagency' needs to be properly translated into French. We then have a more substantive point to raise on the translation with regard to concept. The English version refers to 'space situational awareness' and we would like the translation, and we have been working with space agency experts on this, to be not _____(?) but _____(?). Through the Secretariat we would like this wish to be brought to the attention of the Translation Service of the United Nations and obviously if there is any difficulty then please get back to the French-speaking delegations so that we can act subsequently.

Lastly, for the French version of Addendum 4 we have compiled all of these remarks which we will convey to the Secretariat at the end of the meeting for forwarding to the relevant translation service. The interpreter stresses that all of these points only affect the French text, the English text is as it stands.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of France, so you will provide the Secretariat with the correct translation in French of the English text and the Secretariat will take measures to make all these corrections.

The distinguished representative of Switzerland has the floor.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*) The Swiss delegation had suggested the consultation meeting over lunch. We associate ourselves with the comments made by the French delegation. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of Switzerland.

Are there any comments on the translation in French. I see none.

We proceed with the adoption of paragraph 1. Are there any comments on paragraph 1? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 2. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 3. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 4. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 5. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 6. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 7. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Terms of reference

Paragraph 8. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 9. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 10. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Objective and outputs

Paragraph 11. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 12. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Paragraph 13 (a) (b) (c) Any comments?

Spain has the floor.

Mr. S. ANTÓN ZUNZUNEGUI (Spain)
(*interpretation from Spanish*) In the Spanish language version and this is subparagraph (b), we read in the last portion 'should not be legally binding' ____ (?). Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Spain. In Spanish the necessary amendment will be made according to your proposal.

Any other comments on paragraph 13? I see none.

Paragraph 13 adopted.

Paragraph 14 with the topics for examination by the working group.

Are there any comments? China.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) In the Chinese version of this paragraph under (d) the Chinese version reads like 'space business' which should be corrected to 'space operations'. Under (d) (ii) the Chinese version reads like 'pre-launch and pre-manoeuvre notification' it should be corrected to 'manoeuvre notification'. Under subparagraph (f) (ii) we should be a correction to the Chinese version and we will deliver a written notification to the Secretariat, it will read ____ (?). Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China. Accordingly the modifications will be made within the Chinese version of the document, as you proposed. You provide the Secretariat with a written form of your proposals.

Are there any other comments on paragraph 14? I see none.

Adopted

Paragraph 15. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

Method of work

Paragraph 16. China has the floor.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) We do have the same problem as our distinguished delegates from France have. In the English version we use 'contribution' but in Chinese we translate it into a certain kind of assistance in a material nature, or contribution in cash or in kind. We would correct in Chinese. It follows also in paragraph 17 we would translate 'contribution' into ____ (?) in Chinese.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China for your observations.

Paragraph 16 with the corrections in Chinese of the word 'contributions'. Are there any comments? I see none.

Paragraph 16 is adopted.

Paragraph 17 with the same proposed correction by China in the Chinese version for the word 'contribution'. 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. China has the floor.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) On this paragraph I have a question. Maybe seek clarification from any native speaker of the English language and also have some problem with the Chinese version. In the middle of this paragraph 'expert groups would meet on the margin of and during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Committee' and then follows 'and and at other times to be agreed in advance by the expert groups, preferably at the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee'. The Chinese version reads that the expert would meet at other times, preferably at the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in accordance with the agreement made in advance by the expert group'. For us that is preferable was qualified the time whether expert group will hold meeting but someone told me the English version means that, preferable at the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was qualified when you have agreement in advance so it is _____(?) whether we can make some changes to the Chinese version.

The CHAIRMAN I give the floor to the chairman of the working group on long-term sustainability to answer your questions.

Chair of the Working Group (South Africa) Just to confirm that the understanding of the distinguished delegate of China is correct and perhaps the rendition in Chinese needs to be re-examined.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you.

United Kingdom has the floor.

Ms. L. KEYTE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Just to say in English this is a slightly clumsy formulation as well but just to confirm I think the intention is that the agreement in advance should preferably be made at the Subcommittee and not that the meeting should preferably held at the Subcommittee. I agree it was probably difficult to translate as it also is slightly difficult to understand in English but I think this was the intention.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the UK.

Are there any other comments on paragraph 22? So the Chinese version I understand will be corrected accordingly. I do not see any other comments.

Paragraph 22 is adopted.

Multi-year workplan

Paragraph 23. Any comments? I see none.

Adopted.

So for the year 2011. Let us take it year by year because there are many paragraphs here.

Are there any comments on the first part of paragraph 23 for the year 2011?

The Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. G. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) Although we do not by no means intend to introduce any changes but nevertheless we would like to know absolutely for sure how do nominees for expert groups and the points of contact correlate? Here we have a reference to a single point of contact, does it mean that every State should allot one person? This regarding the long list that each State can send to each of the expert groups or what? Thank you.

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

I give the floor to the chairman of the working group.

Chair of the Working Group (South Africa)
The idea of establishing the national points of contact is that in each country there is one person that is designated as the person that the chairperson and the Secretariat would communicate with and also that point of contact would forward nominations of experts for the expert groups.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished chairman of the working group.

Are there any other clarifications asked by the Russian delegation?

Mr. G. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation)
Thank you I am perfectly satisfied. Thank you.

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

Are there any other comments on the workplan for 2011? I see none.

The paragraph with the workplan for 2011 is adopted.

The paragraph with the workplan for 2012. Any comments?

The paragraph with the workplan for 2012 is adopted.

The paragraph with the workplan for 2013. Any comments?

The paragraph with the workplan for 2013 is adopted.

The workplan for 2014. Any comments.

The paragraph with the workplan for 2014 is adopted.

We adopted all paragraph 23.

So distinguished delegates we fully adopted the document A/AC.105/L.281/Add.4.

We consider the document adopted.

The distinguished representative of South Africa has the floor.

Chair of the Working Group (South Africa)
Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor I will be brief. As we have just adopted the terms of reference for the working group on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of STSC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the great flexibility that you have shown in organizing our work on agenda item 7 during this week to allow the successful outcome of our informal consultations and yet again today to ensure that the adopted document is correct in all the official languages. I would also like to thank and acknowledge all the delegations that engaged in the informal consultations held during this session. The delegations engaged in a very constructive and flexible manner to allow us to adopt these terms of reference at this historic fiftieth anniversary session of COPUOS. While we may be justifiably pleased that we have accomplished this milestone the substantive work of the working group now starts and I look forward to engaging with all the delegations to take this work forward. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent support that I have received from the Secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs whose staff have displayed efficiency and professionalism of the highest order in supporting the activities of this working group and in particular to Mr. Niklas Hedman of the Office with whom I have had the pleasure of working closely for the past year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of South Africa and chairman of the working group on long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Now we have to adopt one single paragraph number 92 from Addendum 3 which was connected with the terms of reference on long-term sustainability.

Venezuela has the floor.

Mr. F. VARELA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I would merely wish to make reference in passing to the terms of reference and sustainability of space activities. We cannot close off this chapter without previously giving a recognition and informing the Committee that in order to achieve a document of this nature we had very productive meetings unfortunately they were not in this room but rather outside, it would have been of use for all States I think. The Russian Federation made valuable contributions and also the Chinese delegation did participate actively. All of this helped to bolster the work of the

Committee and the States in general. But there is one main player and that is the chairperson of the working group, Mr. Peter Martinez, without his patience, his balanced approach, very neutral manner, we would not have been able to achieve that goal. I must say that we have had a chairperson who has listened to each and every delegation and has always sought a settlement or a solution not to benefit one group but rather to suit all. Thanks to the wisdom of Mr. Peter Martinez we have achieved this and this is why I would like to convey this message of thanks. On behalf of all to our chairperson in the name of all, Peter Martinez, I think deserves a round of applause.

However, it is true that we have an excellent working document here but the best part is going to start now and we hope that we will be able to retain the balance. I am watching closely to see how each and every element evolves. We should always have uppermost in our minds the interests of humankind. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very distinguished representative of Venezuela. I fully agree with you, all our congratulations to the chairman of the working group on long-term sustainability on outer space activities, Mr. Peter Martinez. Thank you very much Peter for your work.

Now we proceed with the adoption of paragraph 92 from Addendum 3 which refers to the terms of reference just adopted.

Are there any comments on paragraph 92 of Addendum 3? I see none.

Paragraph 92 of Addendum 3 is adopted.

The full document A/AC.105/L.281/Add.3 is adopted.

Distinguished delegates we have now adopted all parts of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Can I take it that the Committee adopts the entire report as amended? I see no objections.

The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the General Assembly as amended is adopted

Well, distinguished delegates. First I want to thank all of you for your substantial contributions to the work of the Committee.

_____(?) I have one final announcement to make before I close the session.

I am very pleased to inform you that the Office for Outer Space Affairs has launched an initiative that aims at celebrating the quality in humankind that drives us to _____(?) where no one has gone before namely our ability to dream, explore and pursue new experiences. The Office is currently compiling a unique collection of messages from space explorers to future generations. The main purpose of the collection is to create a distinctive collection of messages that will capture the fortitude and spirit of the men and women who ventured beyond our Earth's atmosphere and to inspire to these messages present and future generations to continue investigating in mathematics, science and technology.

The message _____(?), yet to be named, will consist of a collection of pages, one per space explorer, completed by space explorers in their own hand and language of preference. Astronauts and cosmonauts will be invited to enter their names, country, missions they flew, their signature, a message and a photo on the sheets to be provided to them. The message could capture their experiences, their view of work as a result of having flown into space, or serve to encourage new generations to pursue careers relating to space science and technology. The original science sheets will be kept in trust with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and, once a reasonable number of contributions have been received, the Office intends to disseminate the collection through a dedicated web page on its website. The Office intends to work closely with delegations, space agencies and related institutions to collect as many signature sheets of past, present and future, space explorers to ensure that the collection becomes a living tribute to human courage, determination, love of science and its passion for exploration.

I wish the Office well in this endeavour. I do believe you have a bit of catching up to do about 500 or so space explorers. With that and with the Committee's indulgence I would like to reduce that number for you by one and take this moment to add my own sheet to this unique collection.

Distinguished delegates I now declare closed the 643rd meeting and the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The meeting closed at 4 p.m.