

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee**

Unedited transcript

711th Meeting

Monday, 4 April 2005, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. S. Marchisio (Italy)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I am pleased and honoured to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and now declare open the forty-fourth session and 711th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Adoption of the agenda

Distinguished delegates, you have before you for your approval and adoption, the Provisional Agenda for the session, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.253. This Provisional Agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreement reached at the 2004 session of the Committee which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 59/160. Please note that there is an indicative schedule of work in the annex of that document.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the agenda is adopted?

Did you look at the agenda? Have you any objection on the agenda? If not,

it is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to inform the Subcommittee that I have received communications from Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Israel, Tunisia and Yemen requesting to participate in our meetings as observers. I would, therefore, suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite those

delegations to attend the current session and to address the Subcommittee as appropriate. This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decision of the full Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to such delegations.

It is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, colleagues, friends, during the past years, the Legal Subcommittee has moved towards the assessment of several items of great significance that are reflected in our agenda.

May I begin by mentioning the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. For three years, the Legal Subcommittee has reflected on the main obstacles that hamper the universal acceptance of the United Nations space treaties, especially by non-space-faring nations. These obstacles continue to deserve adequate action by the Committee. You may remember that the Legal Subcommittee approved last year the text of a model letter that the Secretary-General might wish to send to the Foreign Ministers of States that had not yet become parties to the United Nations treaties on outer space.

It approved also the text of a similar letter to be sent to intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities that had not yet declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations under the relevant space treaties.

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 D0708, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.



Permit me to draw your attention to the importance of the acceptance of the United Nations space treaties by the intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities. The treaties that foresee such acceptance are the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Conventions on International Liability and on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. In order to enable those intergovernmental organizations to declare their acceptance of the rights and obligations under those treaties, it is necessary that a majority of the States Members of those organizations be Contracting Parties to the treaties. It is clear, indeed, that the two aspects are strictly linked.

In this vein, resolution 59/116, adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 2004, urged States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties as well as incorporating them in their national legislation.

It requests also the Secretary-General to send to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of States non-parties, the letter and document endorsed by our Subcommittee encouraging their States to participate in those treaties. And also to send a similar letter to intergovernmental organizations that have not yet declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations under those treaties.

I am pleased to note that such a letter has been sent to governments and intergovernmental organizations and that encouraging replies are beginning to be received by the Secretariat.

At the same time, the item "Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space" will continue to be considered as a regular agenda item of the Legal Subcommittee and a Working Group on this item will be reconvened at this session. We shall also review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond this session.

May I recall, distinguished delegates, that the General Assembly also adopted resolution 59/115 on the "Application of the Concept of the Launching State", endorsing the consensus reached during the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee on the draft resolution.

This resolution, we all know, does not constitute an interpretation of, or an amendment to the 1975 Registration Convention or to the 1972 Liability Convention but it is aimed at facilitating the

application of those conventions by recommending to States, firstly, to consider enacting and implementing the national laws, authorizing and providing for continuing supervision of the activities in outer space of non-governmental entities under their jurisdiction. Secondly, it recalled that States should consider concluding agreements with respect to joint launches or cooperation programmes. Finally, it is recommended to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to invite Member States to submit information on a voluntary basis on their current practices regarding on-orbit transfer of ownership of space objects with a view of a possible harmonization of such practices.

Distinguished delegates, concerning the item on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee devoted to information of activities of international organizations relating to space law, you are all aware that the Legal Subcommittee commended this practice for its meaningful results. However, it noted also a decrease in attendance and participation of the number of the United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status in the work of the Legal Subcommittee. The Subcommittee might wish to agree on specific recommendations.

Under the same item, I wish to appreciate the remarkable results of the Third Space Law Workshop in Rio de Janeiro and express our gratitude to Brazil for convening this event.

I also thank Nigeria for hosting the 2005 Space Law Workshop in Abuja in November this year.

Now on the other regular agenda items, I wish to recall that the Subcommittee has to continue its consideration of matters relating to the delimitation and the definition of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit and reconvene its Working Group on the item only to consider matters relating to the definition and the delimitation of outer space.

Turning to the groups of items on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee which have been designated single issue items for discussion, we will continue our examination of "Review and the Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources" and of the "Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment". Concerning the latter, I rely upon the results of the consultation process within the open-ended ad hoc Working Group that continued between the forty-third and the forty-fourth sessions of the

Subcommittee, the consideration of the question of the appropriateness of the United Nations acting as Supervisory Authority. And I rely upon the results of the Working Group of this agenda item that we have to reconvene.

Under the new three-year work plan, the Legal Subcommittee began last year considering the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects. I would like to stress how important this information is concerning the practice for a legal body like the Legal Subcommittee in order to assess the application of existing space treaties, namely the 1975 Registration Convention.

This year, the Subcommittee should establish a Working Group in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee. I am confident that this exercise will be very fruitful, even if it would lead to the identification of the lacuna that affect the existing treaties.

My last comment regards the new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee in the next years. It seems to me, in fact, that an effort should be made in order to include new items within the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, taking into account the broad range of proposals presented by Member States. We must be conscious that the Legal Subcommittee is the appropriate body, not only for assessing the application of existing rules of international space law, but also for identifying the legal aspects of new issues that have arisen with respect to outer space activities in the more recent years.

For that, we have to overcome in a spirit of cooperation the difficulties that until now have hampered the agreement on new issues to be considered.

In this perspective, I believe that the work of the Legal Subcommittee should reflect more the goals and priorities pursued by the United Nations system. We should highlight the legal implication of those space activities that support sustainable development for all. This is why special attention has been given during the last years to the contribution of the Subcommittee and the progress made in the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.

The role of the Legal Subcommittee is certainly not over for it continues to be the most suitable forum for the assessment of existing international space law and its development.

Let me conclude by expressing my appreciation to all delegations and to the Director and to the staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. I am sure that we shall work in a spirit of cooperation in order to achieve the results that are expected. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, after that I would like to turn to a more detailed consideration of the programme of work for our present session.

In accordance with the agenda we have just adopted, this session of the Legal Subcommittee should consider the following four items as regular agenda items, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries.

The first of these regular items is agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views. The second regular agenda item is item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

With respect to agenda item 4, delegates will recall that in paragraph 7 of resolution 59/116 "the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its Working Group on this item and would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond the current session of the Subcommittee." At its fortieth session in 2001, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that the discussions of the Working Group would include the status of the treaties, review of their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as promotion of space law, especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

At its forty-first session in 2002, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group would also review any new similar issues that might be raised in discussions in the Working Group, provided those issues fell within its existing mandate.

The third regular item is agenda item 5, Information on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law. Under this item, international organizations are invited to report to the Subcommittee on their activities relating to space law. The reports that were received from international organizations by 9 March 2005 are contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.254 and Add.1. Reports received following 9 March will be before you in Conference Room Paper 5.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/116, agreed that the Legal Subcommittee should, at the current session, address the level of participation of

the entities having permanent observer status, with the Committee, and to report to the Committee at its forty-eighth session on the means of enhancing their participation in the work of the Subcommittee.

The fourth regular item is agenda item 6, Matters Relating to: (a) the Definition and delimitation of outer space; (b) the Character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including the consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union. In its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee will this year reconvene its Working Group on this item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The Subcommittee will have before it Add.11 and Add.12 to document A/AC.105/635 "Questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects: replies from member states", containing six additional replies received by the Secretariat after 21 January 2004. The Working Group will continue consideration of the analytical summary of the replies received from Member States to the Questionnaire, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.249 and Add.1.

The Working Group will also consider the document A/AC.105/849 entitled "Analytical summary of the replies to the questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects: preferences of member states" in order to facilitate reaching agreement on this item.

The Subcommittee should also consider two single issue items for discussion. The first single issue is agenda item 7, Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The second single issue is agenda item 8, Examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (opened to signature in Cape Town on 16 November 2001). Under this item there are two sub-items: (a) Consideration relating to the possibility of the United Nations serving as Supervisory Authority under the preliminary draft protocol; and (b) Consideration relating to the relationship between the terms of the preliminary draft protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regime applicable to outer space.

In its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group to consider the questions reflected in sub-items 8(a) and 8(b) separately.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee to establish an open-ended ad hoc Working Group to continue between the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions of the Subcommittee the consideration of the question of the appropriateness of the United Nations acting as Supervisory Authority.

The Assembly noted that the ad hoc Working Group would submit a report including the text of a draft resolution to the Subcommittee for consideration at the current session. The open-ended ad hoc Working Group did work inter-sessionally and its report has been made available to all delegates, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.256.

The Subcommittee will also continue its consideration on agenda item 9, Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects, under a four-year work plan covering the period from 2004 to 2007. In its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee should establish at the current session, a Working Group in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee. In accordance with that plan, the Working Group would, during the current session, examine reports submitted by Member States and international organizations on their practice in registering space objects.

I would, therefore, like to invite all delegations to report to the Subcommittee on their practice in registering space objects. Reports submitted in written form to the Secretariat will be made available in Conference Room Papers.

I am pleased to note that in response to a request by the Legal Subcommittee at its last session, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has prepared a background document based on its presentation at that session on the United Nations Register of Objects Launched Into Outer Space. This background paper has been made available to delegates as document A/AC.105/C.2/L.255 in order to facilitate the work of the Working Group under this agenda item once it is established.

Finally, as I emphasized earlier, the Subcommittee should consider its proposals for submission to the Committee regarding new items for consideration under work plans or as single issues/items for discussion at the Legal Subcommittee's forty-fifth session in 2006.

Distinguished delegates, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, we should reconvene the Working Group under item 4, Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. The Working Group on Item 4 was chaired during the last session by Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece, who ably led its work. Unfortunately, Mr. Cassapoglou will only be able to join this session of the Subcommittee hopefully next week. Accordingly, I suggest that informal consultations proceed among delegations for candidates for the Chair of this Working Group at the current session of the Subcommittee with a view to proposing a candidate as soon as possible.

Would this be agreeable to the Subcommittee?

I see no objection.

It is so decided.

May I propose that we re-establish the Working Group pending a decision regarding its chairmanship?

Seeing no objection,

it is so decided.

In addition, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee will this year reconvene its Working Group on Item 6 only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The Working Group on Agenda Item 6 was chaired during the last session by Mrs. Déborah Salgado Campaña of Ecuador who ably led its work. Unfortunately, also Mrs. Salgado Campaña will not be able to continue the chairmanship of this Working Group.

Accordingly, I suggest that informal consultations proceed among delegates of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, GRULAC, on candidates for the Chair of this Working Group with a view to proposing a candidate for the chairmanship of this Working Group as soon as possible.

Would this be agreeable to the Subcommittee?

I see no objection.

It is so decided.

May I propose also that we re-establish the Working Group pending a decision regarding its chairmanship?

Seeing no objection,

it is so decided.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on Item 8 to examine the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (opened for signature in Cape Town in 2001). This Working Group, as we know, should consider the questions reflected in agenda items 8(a) and 8(b) separately.

May I propose that we re-establish the Working Group for this purpose under the chairmanship of Professor Vladimir Kopal of the Czech Republic who competently guided the work at its last sessions?

I see no objection.

It is so decided.

I extend to Professor Kopal my congratulations and best wishes for a successful series of meetings during this session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Finally, in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee, the Legal Subcommittee should establish its Working Group on Agenda Item 9, Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects.

I have been informed that consultations have taken place among delegations on this matter and that Mr. Niklas Hedman of the Swedish delegation could chair the Working Group at the current session of the Subcommittee.

May I take it that the Subcommittee wishes to establish the Working Group on Agenda Item 9 under the chairmanship of Niklas Hedman of Sweden?

I see no objection.

It is so decided.

I extend to Niklas Hedman my congratulations and best wishes for a successful series of meetings and successful results over the next few days.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to say a few words concerning the utilization of the Conference Services made available to our Subcommittee. You will recall that, in accordance with practice over the past years, the Subcommittee has agreed that a flexible organization of work should continue to serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee. I would once again like to propose that the Subcommittee adopt a similar flexible organization of work to serve as the basis for organizing the work at this present session.

Are there any objections to proceeding in this manner?

I see none.

It is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, as has been the case in previous years, and unless agreed otherwise, we shall meet each day in this Conference Room and begin our work promptly at 10.00 a.m. for the morning session and 3.00 p.m. for the afternoon session.

With regard to the schedule of meetings and the allocation of time among the substantive agenda items, I would now like to draw your attention to the indicative schedule of work set out in the annex to document A/AC.105/C.2/L.253. A two-week schedule has been provided on the last two pages of document L.253, to assist the Subcommittee in its planning. I would request the cooperation of delegations in adopting as flexible an approach as possible to this indicative schedule and urge that close attention be paid to the announcements of the Chairman and the daily journal in this regard. I would also request that in order to ensure the best use of our meeting time any delegation that plans to deliver statements or to make presentations under particular items for specific meetings, coordinate his plans with the Secretariat as early as possible.

Having said that, I would still like to outline a tentative schedule for the next three meetings.

This morning, we shall shortly proceed with the general exchange of views. This afternoon, we would continue with the general exchange of views and, time permitting, begin consideration of agenda item 4, Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

I remind you that starting at 4.00 p.m. a Symposium on "Recent developments in remote sensing and the desirability of reviewing the 1986

United Nations Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth From Outer Space", will be held in this room. This Symposium is being co-organized by the International Institute for Space Law, IISL, of the International Astronautical Federation and the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL.

I would also like to inform delegates that at 6.00 p.m., following the Symposium, there will be a reception organized by the IISL and ECSL in the Mozart Room of the Vienna International Centre Restaurant, which is located on the Ground Floor of the 'F' Building.

Tomorrow morning, we will again take up the general exchange of views and thereafter begin or continue our work on agenda item 4, Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. Time permitting, the Working Group on Item 4 might convene its first meeting.

Are there any questions or comments regarding the schedule of work that I have just outlined?

I see none.

We will proceed accordingly.

General exchange of views (agenda item 3)

Distinguished delegates, I would now suggest that we begin with item 3 on our agenda, General Exchange of Views.

I have the first speaker on my list and it is the distinguished delegate of GRULAC, Bolivia, Ambassador Bazoberry. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. BAZOBERRY (Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, distinguished representatives of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, distinguished representatives of international organizations. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, I would like to express our satisfaction with your election Sir to the position of Chairman of this Subcommittee. We are convinced that, under your leadership, this forty-fourth session will be successful.

I would also like to congratulate the Office for Outer Space Affairs and pay tribute to the excellent work of its officers.

Mr. Chairman, it is with great pleasure that we have followed the preparation of the report on the application of recommendations of UNISPACE III + 5. The Action Teams have worked in a harmonious and cooperative fashion and countries in our part of the world have taken an active part in their deliberations, most particularly those countries that are involved in outer space activities and in the preparation for the upcoming Congress on Outer Space. We have been working hard as part of the provisional Secretariat to prepare the Congress and to implement the Cartagena Declaration. We are particularly proud of the cooperative and cohesive fashion in which this work has proceeded in our part of the world. We also offered support for the Seminar on Legal Affairs underlying space activities for Latin American States held in Brazil.

We have followed with great attention the legal developments as they apply to Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC is pleased to note Ecuador's proposal made within the framework of the recent session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, the proposal to hold the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas in Quito, Ecuador in July 2006. It will be a very important regional event with global ramifications and it is important for all Latin American and Caribbean States.

We would also like to congratulate the Government of Chile on the ongoing work to prepare for the Preparatory Meeting for this Conference which will be held in Santiago de Chile in March 2006 within the framework of the International Air and Space Fair to be held in that city.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to work towards total and complete implementation of the five outer space treaties to make sure that countries that have not joined these important international legal instruments do so in the foreseeable future making them truly universal. It is essential that we promote the general acceptance, signing and ratification of these important United Nations treaties.

With regard to the matter of the geostationary orbit, we would like to reaffirm our position as to the exploitation of this limited natural resource. It must be accessible to all countries regardless of their level of development or technologies that exist in those countries at the present time. This unique natural resource, which is the geostationary orbit, must be used in a fair, equitable manner without taking advantage of the geo-strategic position of certain countries.

As regards the concept of the unification of private law undertaken by UNIDROIT with regard to international interests in mobile equipment and the Protocol on Matters Pertaining to Space Assets, GRULAC believes that it is important to make sure that international public law norms prevail every step of the way with regard to any such developments.

We are involved in the work on the Protocol on Space Assets and would like to recall that it is a priority that all countries should have fair and just access to these resources.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank you for your statement. As you have underscored, international cooperation in the matters pertaining to outer space is extremely important.

I now call upon the delegation of Germany. Germany, you have the floor.

Mr. S. KRAUSPE (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to .. (*no microphone*) ...

INTERPRETER: Microphone for Germany please.

Mr. S. KRAUSPE (Germany): Mr. Chairman, I would like to join our Bolivian colleague expressing our satisfaction with the nomination of Professor Kopal and Niklas Hedman being the Chairman of the respective Working Groups.

The German delegation welcomes the work plan for the forty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and the efforts to increase the application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

The work of the Legal Subcommittee will furthermore support the harmonized application of the treaties, within the results achieved during the forty-fourth session as a good basis for this year's work plan.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation is particularly satisfied with the establishment of the Working Group on Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects. A uniform and complete application of the Registration Convention is of most relevance for governmental as well as commercial space activities. We are convinced that the results of the Working Group will lead to useful results for space practice. At this occasion, we would like to

congratulate the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent paper on practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects in preparation of this session.

One further item of most practical relevance of this session is the examination and the possible consideration concerning the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. As many other Member States, Germany supports the work of UNIDROIT and the efforts to establish legal instruments to support private finance space activities to the benefit of commercial as well as public space applications. We, therefore, have great expectations on fruitful discussions and resulting considerations supporting UNIDROIT to continue their work on the Space Protocol.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation welcomes the finalization of the work on the legal concept of the launching State and the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 59/115 of 10 December 2004 that you mentioned already. This resolution *inter alia*, "requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in making full use of the functions and resources of the Secretariat, to continue to provide States, at their request, with relevant information and assistance in developing national space laws based on the relevant treaties." The Office for Outer Space Affairs and Germany have already taken concrete steps in this direction, namely by concluding a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Institute of Air and Space Law at Cologne University with the aim of, *inter alia*, making widely available space law texts which could serve as a resource for the development of laws relating to space activities, especially for the benefit of the developing countries.

In this respect, the above-mentioned Institute has special know-how and experience since it has been publishing a loose-leaf collection entitled "Space Law Basic Legal Documents", edited by Mr. Böckstiegl, Ms. Benkö and Mr. Hobe since 1978. It offers a comprehensive up-to-date compilation of multilateral and bilateral agreements, as well as national space legislation and space-related matters, currently comprising approximately 4,500 pages.

Taking into account the limited resources available to each organization for conducting such activities, the cooperation between the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Institute of Air and Space Law at Cologne University will optimize the use of available resources and double the efforts on both sides. In this connection, it has to be emphasized that this work is

exclusively scholarly and does not give rise to financial obligation on either side. A copy of this collection is displayed in this Conference Room for the attention of delegates and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Benkö from the German delegation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished delegate of Germany.

And now I give the floor to the delegation of Canada. Canada, you have the floor.

Ms. KAPPELLA (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Canada welcomes the opportunity to work with you again during this session of the Legal Subcommittee. Our deliberations will be all the more successful thanks to your able chairmanship. Canada would also like to congratulate Mr. Kopal and Mr. Hedman on their recent election.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is pleased to announce that Bill C-25: An Act Governing the Operation of Remote Sensing Space Systems, was introduced in the House of Commons in November 2004 and has passed Second Reading. This legislation is designed to promote the development of the commercial remote sensing industry in Canada by recognizing the necessity for the Canadian Government to be able to control satellite operations to protect its national security and foreign policy interests. The Act provides for the licensing of the operations of remote sensing satellite systems, as well as the regulation of the distribution of remote sensing data and products. This is especially important with the emergence of new high-resolution satellites often privately owned and with dual-use capabilities such as Radarsat-2, a next generation radar imagery satellite scheduled to be launched by Canada in early 2006.

(Continued in French) Mr. Chairman, Canada is very pleased to have received the letter from the Secretary-General of the United Nations which encourages States that have not yet done so to accede to the main international treaties in the area of space affairs. Canada fully endorses this type of initiative aiming at strengthening the implementation of the existing international legal framework for Outer Space, particularly in light of the approaching 40th anniversary of the Magna Carta of Space, the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Another such initiative resulted in the adoption by this Subcommittee of a new agenda item

on the registration practices of States and international organizations.. Deliberations last year served to highlight common practices pursuant to the 1976 Registration Convention. They also brought to the fore emerging issues relating to the increased commercialization of space activities, which challenge traditional interpretations of existing international space law instruments and will need to be addressed.

(Continued in English) Mr. Chairman, Canada wishes to thank The Netherlands for its effective chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Working Group established at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee for the consideration of the potential role of the United Nations as a Supervisory Authority under the Space Assets Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. The elaboration of a balanced report outlining the views of all participating States on the issue while preserving the flexibility of delegations negotiating the Space Assets Protocol to make a final determination as to the identity of the Supervisory Authority is testament to this effectiveness and to the concerted efforts of all participants in the Working Group.

Mr. Chairman, Canada considers space as a universal good that must be protected in order for its benefits to accrue to all. It must be protected from the proliferation of space debris and in this regard, Canada is pleased with the consensus achieved at this year's session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on an agreed work plan for the development of United Nations high-level space debris mitigation guidelines.

Space must also be protected from the threat caused by weapons. Canada believes it is time for the partial space weapons ban enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty to be extended to all weapons. In this regard, Canada strongly supports the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, (PAROS), in all its aspects in the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

A symposium on space security, co-sponsored by the Governments of China and the Russian Federation, as well as UNIDIR and the Simons Foundation of Canada, was held in Geneva on 21 and 22 March. Many countries whose delegates are here today were in attendance. Canada applauds such initiatives aimed at ensuring the continued access to and use of space by all nations for peaceful purposes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Canada for your intervention and for your kind words towards the

Chair of the Subcommittee and of the Working Groups.

Now I have on my list the observer of the International Astronautical Federation. You have the floor.

Ms. R. M. RAMÍREZ DE ARELLANO (International Astronautical Federation) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank you for this opportunity to have the pleasure of greeting you once again and I will be reading the text in English which is the official language of the International Astronautical Federation which the Chairman has written.

(Continued in English) On behalf of the President of the International Astronautical Federation, Mr. James V. Zimmerman, the Federation is pleased to greet and congratulate you on the conduct of the work carried out by this meeting.

The Federation, in the capacity of observer, deems that the work carried out by this Committee is of the utmost importance. Through the International Institute of Space Law, IISL, the Federation has followed and actively participated in the different meetings and symposia that have been held by the Legal Subcommittee. On this day, a Symposium on the "Recent Developments in Remote Sensing and the Desirability of Reviewing the 1986 United Nations Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth From Outer Space", sponsored by the IISL and the European Centre of Space Law will be held.

Mrs. Tanja Masson-Zwaan, Secretary of the Institute pursuant to the provision contained in Item 5 of the agenda, will present a report on space law-related activities that were carried out in 2004.

Mr. President, I am pleased to hereby reiterate to you the invitation that the President of the Federation made during the forty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to participate in the Fifty-Sixth International Astronautical Congress which will take place in Fukuoka, Japan from Monday, 17 October 2005 through Friday, 21 October 2005 with the topic "Space for the Inspiration of Humankind". It is important to point out that during said Congress, the Forty-Eighth Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space will be held where the following topics will be addressed: Convergence and privatization in telecommunication, institutional and other responses; legal aspects of expanding human presence beyond low-Earth orbit; legal issues related to the new developments in space applications: navigation,

remote sensing and GIS; other legal matters 1 and 2 on two topics.

The IAF is pleased to invite the Legal Subcommittee to participate in the next International Astronautical Congress.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I thank the distinguished representative of the International Astronautical Federation for her statement.

Now I give the floor to the next speaker on my list, the distinguished representative of India. India, you have the floor.

Ms. R. L. LOKESH (India): Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of pleasure for the Indian delegation to see you occupying this august Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and we are confident that, under your leadership, the Subcommittee will achieve good progress on the matters included in the agenda. I take this opportunity to assure you of the wholehearted cooperation and support of the Indian delegation in resolving many difficult issues awaiting our attention in the current session.

Mr. Chairman, let me briefly explain some important achievements of the Indian Space Programme since our last session in March-April 2004.

The first operational launch of the geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle, GSLV, carrying the communications satellite GSAT-3 was successfully carried out on 20 September 2004. With this launch, GSLV was successful in all its three launches so far. GSAT-3 was named as EDUSAT and it is exclusively meant to support satellites-based educational networks across the country. This application programme aims to bridge the gap between the high availability of qualified teachers in urban areas and the huge distributed need of formal and informal education throughout the country. A large number of satellite-based educational networks are coming into operation with the launch and commissioning of EDUSAT.

Last year saw the launch of another important application programme called Village Resource Centre, VRC in October 2004. The VRC will be based on interactive VSAT-based networks with possibilities of deriving information needed at local level and enabling tele-education, tele-medicine and online decision support. Cost-effectiveness has been achieved using

same-space-based connectivity for different services in a time-sharing mode.

Another space application programme of ISRO, space-systems-based tele-medicine, was further expanded in the last one year. Also this system was effectively used during the post-Tsunami relief operations of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Chairman, international cooperation implemented as a crucial complement of the Indian Space Programme towards exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes received a further boost since we met last year wherein bilateral Memorandums of Understanding were signed with Italy, Venezuela and the Russian Federation. India has renewed agreement with the Russian Federation for another 10 years. Also there is an understanding for cooperation in the Russian GLONASS system.

The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific Region, affiliated to the United Nations and operating from India, continues to make good progress. The Centre, so far, carried out 18 post-graduate programmes with a duration of nine months and three are currently ongoing. In addition, it organized a number of short-term courses and workshops. Six hundred and twenty-two scholars from 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and 16 countries outside of the region participated so far and benefited from the educational activities of the Centre.

The India-United States of America Conference on Space Science, Applications and Commerce was held in Bangalore during June 2004. The objectives of the Conference were to strengthen and expand the cooperation between India and the United States of America wherein around 550 delegates attended the Conference.

The Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme was held in Bangalore during October 2004 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Indian Space Research Organization.

The Sixth International Lunar Conference was organized during the last week of November 2004 at Vdaipur to discuss lunar science including questions regarding its origin and resources.

India's unmanned mission to the Moon, CHANDRAYAN-1, drew attention of all participants of the Conference. In tune with the policy of ISRO to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use

and exploration of outer space, a portion of the CHANDRAYAN-1 capability was kept aside for international participation. The announcement of this opportunity was made which attracted strong response from the international science community.

Through an evaluation process involving the science community of our nation, six instruments were shortlisted for participation, subject to the approval and funding by their respective organizations and governments. The European Space Agency has very recently announced its support to build three instruments for participation in this mission. The Indian delegation puts on record its appreciation for the European Space Agency.

It may be worthwhile to recall that the Indian Space Programme has a strong tradition of cooperation with European nations through their national space agencies as well as through the European Space Agency.

ISRO organized the International Tele-Medicine Conference from 17 to 19 March 2005 in Bangalore. This Conference provided a platform for discussing challenges and opportunities for this new medium to bring the space benefits to the common man. It was attended by over 700 participants, including 40 international participants from 15 countries.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation considers that the development of space law is crucial to the orderly and organized exploration of space for peaceful purposes. This very Subcommittee has successfully formulated a number of treaties in the past on matters relating to outer space. The role of these treaties in the conduct and expansion of space activities can hardly be over-emphasized. We have attached high importance to the important role being played by the Legal Subcommittee in the past and shall continue to do so in the future. We reaffirm that the five United Nations space treaties evolved through consensus and accepted by a large number of countries constitute the cornerstones of international space law. The review of status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, therefore, is an important subject to encourage adherence to these by the States which are yet to accede to them.

The Indian delegation is of the view that GSO is an integral part of outer space and is thus governed by the outer space treaties. Our continuing debate on this subject and on the subject of the definition and delimitation of outer space is crucial to arrive at a common understanding.

Our delegation has carefully followed the debate on the subject of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the draft Protocol on Space Assets in the previous session. India has also participated in all the international forums wherein this proposed legal instrument has been discussed and debated. We feel convinced that the proposed Protocol not only opens up possibilities of conflict with the space treaties but will also lead to compromise of national interests. While putting on record our deep appreciation for the interest and efforts undertaken by the sponsors of this proposal, we consider that the debate during the current session will examine and hopefully resolve a number of open issues. Moreover, India considers the United Nations or any of its offices accepting the role of the Supervisory Authority totally inappropriate and is in conflict with the fundamental mandate of this high-level international organization.

Mr. Chairman, when we met last we had announced about an initiative undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organization towards capacity-building in the field of international space law. We continued and strengthened that initiative. ISRO continues to sponsor one team of students for participating in the regional round of the Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition being held in Sydney. The Second International Law Conference held at New Delhi from 13 to 17 November 2004 under the auspices of the Indian Society for International Law had one full day session devoted to the law of outer space. ISRO encouraged the participation of Indian space technologists, thus bringing the legal fraternity and the science community together to share the same platform. Many foreign luminaries participated, including the present Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you for your kind participation Mr. Chairman.

The preparations of the Space Law Conference 2005 to be held at Bangalore from 26 to 29 June are in the final stages. This Conference, bringing space benefits to the Asia-Pacific region shall be jointly sponsored by IISL, ISRO and the Astronautical Society of India. The Astronautical Society of India and the Indian Space Research Organization would co-host this Conference. On behalf of the hosts and the organizers, I seek wholehearted participation from Member States.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to reiterate the Indian commitment to the use of outer space for peaceful purposes in the common interest of mankind. We support development and continuous evolution of the rule of law for the peaceful use and exploration of

outer space so as to ensure benefits to all countries, in particular to the developing countries.

The Indian delegation urges all countries to respect the sovereign right of every country to have access to space and the opportunity to utilize space for developmental programmes. The respect for safety and security of space assets and the capabilities of all countries, without any demand or threat or denial of access to space, is an inevitable necessity for all of us to preserve and prosper together. The Indian delegation expresses its confidence that the Legal Subcommittee will contribute significantly towards this goal.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished delegate of India. I wish to congratulate you for your informative statement and to thank you for your kind words.

I now give the floor to the next speaker on my list. It is the delegate of the International Institute of Space Law, IISL. You have the floor.

Ms. MASSON-ZWAAN (International Institute of Space Law): Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure for the International Institute of Space Law to be once again invited to submit a short report on its activities.

The IISL has held in 2004 its Annual Colloquium in Vancouver, Canada, from 4 to 8 October. Five sessions were held on various topics involving space law and a record number of papers has been presented on this occasion. At the occasion of this Colloquium, a special event was hosted by the European Space Agency on "European Space Programmes, an introduction for lawyers". A panel was held and talks were presented on EGNOS and Galileo, GMES and European space exploration programmes.

On the occasion of the Vancouver Colloquium, the World Finals of the Thirteenth Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition were held and finalists from Europe, the North American rounds and the Asia-Pacific rounds competed. The University of Leiden from The Netherlands was the winner of this year's world finals. A team from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. was the runner-up and the National Law School of India University in Bangalore, India, was the second runner-up.

In Vancouver, an award called the Diederiks-Verschoor Award was awarded for the third time to Ms. Ito from Japan. This is an award that is given to young authors who have not published more than five papers in an IISL colloquium. A total of eight papers had been submitted for this award and this award consists of a medal and money prize.

The proceedings of the Colloquium in Bremen in 2003 have been published by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

In addition, the proceedings of the Beijing Regional Space Law Conference that was held in April 2004 have also been published by the China Institute of Space Law.

As the distinguished delegate from India has also just mentioned, the IISL is very pleased to announce the Third Regional Space Law Conference to be held in Bangalore, India, this coming June from 26 to 29 June. This Conference is co-organized with ISRO, the Indian Space Research Organization, and the Astronautical Society of India, ASI.

The aim of this Conference is to bring space law and policy specialists together in a specific region to discuss topics of particular interest to that region, thus allowing interested parties from various backgrounds to meet and interact with experts from all over the world and to promote mutual understanding and cooperation for the benefit of all parties.

Various topics will be addressed during this Conference including the legal implication of missions to the Moon; legal aspects of launching services; remote sensing and GI; telecommunications, including tele-education and tele-medicine; disaster management; national space legislation: towards a blue print. We will publish the final programme of this Conference on the website of the IISL and we hope to be able to welcome many of the distinguished delegates on this occasion.

I would also like to announce on this occasion that plans are being formed to organize a Fourth Regional Conference in Bangkok in the summer of 2006 in cooperation with the Ministry and Chulalongkorn University.

In October 2005, the IISL will hold its Forty-Eighth Colloquium on the Occasion of the International Astronautical Congress to be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from 17 to 21 October. The session topics have been announced by my distinguished

colleague representing the IAF so I will not go into this. I would just like to add that on this occasion a scientific legal roundtable, co-organized by IISL and the IAA, International Academy of Astronautics, will also be held on the topic of space traffic management.

In Fukuoka, Japan, also the World Finals of the 14th Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Competition will be held and again we will have the honour of having three distinguished judges from the International Court of Justice to judge the World Finals. Regional competitions are again being held in the Asia-Pacific, in Europe and in North America.

This afternoon, as has been announced by the distinguished Chairman, the IISL and the European Centre for Space Law are pleased to organize a symposium on the topic of "Recent Developments in Remote Sensing and the Desirability of Reviewing the 1986 United Nations Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth From Outer Space". We hope that you will all attend this Symposium where speakers from Europe, North America and the Asian region will present their views on these aspects and we are very pleased that former Chairman, Ambassador Jankowitsch has agreed to chair again this meeting.

Following the meeting, we would like to invite you to a reception, co-hosted by IISL and ECSL.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of the International Institute for Space Law, IISL.

Are there any other speakers on the general exchange of views at this time?

I see none.

We will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to inform you that I have received a request from the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the opportunity to briefly address the Legal Subcommittee in the time left for this morning's meeting.

Therefore, if there are no objections, I would like to give the floor this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and on behalf of the Legal Subcommittee invite him to deliver his statement.

Seeing no objections, I give the floor to Mr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, Director of the Office. Thank you.

Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I am grateful for the opportunity to address the Legal Subcommittee this morning in order to review briefly the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs relating to international space law over the last year.

It will touch on plans for the future. I am pleased to see you once again as Chairman of the Subcommittee and can assure you that the Secretariat would offer you its greatest support as you ably lead the work of the Subcommittee.

One of the important activities of the Office over the last year has been its involvement in implementing the request of the General Assembly in resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, that the Secretary-General send to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of States that have not yet become parties to the treaties governing the uses of outer space, the model letter endorsed by this Subcommittee encouraging participation in those treaties. I am pleased to inform you that those letters were dispatched on 12 January of this year and that there have been very positive signs already emerging from this initiative, an initiative that appears to have sparked a genuine renewal of interest in the treaties governing the uses of outer space.

Similar letters have been sent more recently to relevant intergovernmental organizations and we look forward to assessing the reaction of those organizations and their member States as well.

On this upbeat note, let me report to you on some other highlights over the past year.

In 2004, the Office continued to discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations treaties on outer space. With reference to the 1976 Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space, and General Assembly resolution 1721(XVI)B, of 20 December 1961, the Office continued to maintain the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Information received in accordance with the Registration Convention, as well as General Assembly resolution 1721(XVI)(B), has been circulated to all Member States and can be found in document series ST/SG/SER.E/1-467. And the other series is A/AC.105/INF.1-411 respectively.

In the past year, France, Germany, Greece, India, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and the European Space Agency furnished information in accordance with the United Nations treaties on outer space.

The registration documents and an online index of objects launched into outer space can be found on the website of the Office.

The Office also continued to discharge other responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under the legal regime governing activities in outer space, in particular disseminating information provided by Member States in their Article XI of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

You will recall that in 2002, the Office, together with the International Atomic Energy, the IAEA, and other United Nations agencies and international organizations, co-sponsored the Joint Radiation Emergency Plan of the International Organizations. The Joint Plan describes the coordination and respective arrangements of the relevant international organizations in preparing for and responding to nuclear accidents and radiological emergencies. The Office's role in its coordination with other agencies are cast within the context of a specific category of radiological emergency which is the possible or actual re-entry of the space object with nuclear power sources onboard. In this regard, the Office will participate in the Third Meeting of Representatives of National Competent Authorities identified under the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions to be held by the IAEA from 12 to 15 July of this year. The Meeting will be conducted in order to promote, facilitate and support the cooperation needed to improve arrangements for international preparedness for and response to nuclear radiological emergencies.

Mr. Chairman, in the past year, the Office has continued its efforts to promote and disseminate information relating to space law. The Office continues to produce a number of documents and publications on an annual basis relating to space law. The following is a list of publications in the past year.

The current status of signatures, ratifications and accessions to various multilateral, international agreements relating to activities in outer space. The report is reproduced on the basis of information provided to the Office by Depositories for such agreements and appears as an insert to the regular

publication "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space". The most recent insert is contained in document ST/SPACE/11/Add.1/Rev.2 and is current through 1 January 2005.

As you will note from this most recent publication, a number of States have ratified or signed treaties relating to activities in outer space in the past year. As far as the five United Nations treaties on outer space are concerned, Belgium has now ratified the Moon Agreement.

With respect to other agreements, Azerbaijan has ratified the Agreement on the Establishment of the INTERSPUTNIK International System and Organization of Space Communications and Greece has ratified the Convention on the Establishment of a European Space Agency, thereby becoming the sixteenth member of the European Space Agency. Congratulations to Greece.

And finally, Luxembourg has recently become signatory to the ESA Convention. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all the States.

Returning to the list of publications this year, the Office published "Highlights in Space 2004" which contains a section on international cooperation and space law. This publication is produced in cooperation with COSPAR, IAF and IISL. An analytical summary of replies to the questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to outer space objects has now been updated to include replies received from Member States after January 2004, that was the previous summary that was produced by the Office, and a third publication "Education Opportunities in Space Law: A Directory of Institutions Teaching Space Law".

In response to the recommendations of the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session in 2003, the Office invited a number of institutions to provide information on their programmes related to space law. As you are all aware, the Office compiled a Directory of Education Opportunities in Space Law based on this information. The Directory was updated during the course of 2004 and it will be circulated as Conference Room Paper Four during this session. The directory will also be available on the Office's website.

This year, the Office received information from eight new institutions. These are in Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, India, Republic of Korea and the United States of America. The directory now lists 40 institutions from 23 countries.

And finally in our list of publications, the proceedings of the United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Space Law entitled "Disseminating and Developing International and National Space Law: The Latin America and Caribbean Perspective" which was hosted by the SBDA (Associação Brasileira de Direito Aeronáutico e Espacial) and the Government of Brazil, from 22 to 25 November 2004 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Office is currently in the process of finalizing these proceedings and expects to make them available in hard copy and electronically to all delegations by the time of the next session of the Committee in June. The printed version will contain all papers submitted to the Office prior to or immediately following the conclusion of the Workshop. The full proceedings of the Workshop, including PowerPoint presentations, will be available on a CD ROM, in pdf format. The full proceedings will also be available on the website of the Office.

With reference to the website of the Office, the website will be migrating to a new hardware system in the near future. As part of the migration, the Office will be reviewing the entire space law section in order to assess areas in which the service could be made more efficient and user friendly. We would welcome any ideas from delegations about ways to improve this service.

Delegations may also be interested to note that in addition to the text of the outer space treaties, national space laws and regulations, material related to the Legal Subcommittee and proceedings of the United Nations Workshops on Space Law, all General Assembly resolutions from 1958 onwards relating to outer space are now available on the website of the Office in all official languages.

Also on the website is the online index of objects launched into outer space. The online index is a searchable database of information on all objects launched into Earth orbit or beyond since 1957. It provides a quick and efficient means of finding information provided to the United Nations by Member States and international organizations in accordance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space, as well as General Assembly resolution 1721(XIV)B, which I have mentioned previously.

The index also provides users with electronic versions of registration documents relating to space objects issued by the United Nations.

Space Law Update is an electronic publication containing information on matters relating to space law

that is produced by the Office as new information accumulates. This initiative was launched by the Office last year and is now in its third edition. As you will recall, the publication focuses on activities of the Committee, the Legal Subcommittee and the Office itself that are related to space law. The content of Space Law Update is aimed at providing quick information on space law developments to a broad audience including policy and decision makers, educators, students of space law and space law practitioners. Space Law Update is available, free of charge, to any person who expresses an interest in receiving a copy. There are already over 300 subscribers to this publication. In order to maintain an updated mailing list, all persons interested in subscribing to the mailing list are encouraged to complete the registration form. A copy of the most recent edition of Space Law Update has been placed on the table at the back of the room.

The Office believes that Space Law Update is a useful tool for circulating updated information relating to space law, particularly within the context of the Legal Subcommittee and of the United Nations.

With respect to capacity-building in space law, in the past year the Office continued to promote the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, as well as support the exchange of information on national space law and policy.

I am pleased to inform you that in 2004, the Office organized the Third United Nations Workshop aimed at building capacity in space law. This is the Workshop that I referred to previously with respect to the proceedings. The Workshop entitled "Disseminating and Developing International and National Space Law: the Latin America and Caribbean Perspective", was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 25 November 2004 and was jointly organized by the SBDA, the Associação Brasileira de Direito Aeronáutico e Espacial and the Government of Brazil. Approximately 75 participants from the following countries attended the Workshop: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Guyana, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Participants held positions in governmental departments, space agencies, international organizations, universities, research institutions and the private sector. Invited speakers from both developing and industrialized countries delivered 30 papers and presentations.

The Workshop considered the current and future development of international and national space law, as well as a number of issues of specific interest to the Latin America and Caribbean region. In addition, participants from countries in the region presented information on their national institutions conducting space activities and considered ways and means of building capacity in education in space law.

The final session was devoted to finalizing the observations and recommendations, as well as conclusions of the Workshop.

A detailed report, including the observations and conclusions agreed upon at the Workshop, can be found in document A/AC.105/847.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Brazil and to SBDA for their support in providing a number of experts to participate in the Workshop, in organizing special events for the participants, as well as for providing excellent meeting facilities and support for some of the participants from developing countries.

In 2004, the Office continued to be called upon to provide advice on international space law and legal issues relating to activities in outer space. The Office fulfilled this role, within the limits of its capacity, in response to various types of requests and queries that were received. The Office also continued to deliver presentations in space law and on the work of the Committee and its Subcommittees to groups visiting the Vienna International Centre from within and from outside the host country, as well as at events conducted by organizations other than the United Nations.

I am also pleased to inform you that on 16 July 2004, this Office and the Institute of Air and Space Law of the University of Cologne signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to jointly collaborate in the promotion of space law and in building capacity in that area by engaging in activities that are of mutual interest and within the means of each of the organizations.

In 2005, in addition to its regular duties and within its existing human and financial resources, the Office hopes to continue expanding its efforts to build capacity in space law and to promote the development of space law.

Together with the Government of Nigeria, the Office will organize the Fourth United Nations Workshop on Space Law to be held in Abuja, Nigeria,

from 14 to 17 November 2005. The principle objectives of this Workshop will be to build capacity in space law in Africa. Emphasis will be placed on the following: enhancing understanding of the existing international legal regime on outer space, development of national space legislation and policy and promoting space law education in national institutions.

The Workshop may also address other issues that may be of specific interest to the region. Further information on the Workshop, including the application forms, will be placed on the website of the Office once the arrangements have been finalized.

In addition to the Workshop on Space Law, the Office will also be taking the first steps towards developing a model education curriculum for a short-term course on space law, an action which was recommended by the Committee to the General Assembly in the Plan of Action contained in the report of the Committee on "Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III" and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/2.

On a more general note, the Office will continue to explore different mechanisms for ensuring that information related to space law reaches the widest possible audience, including cooperating, where possible, with different space law institutions to update and make accessible a variety of documents, materials and information resources that would be useful to both government officials and academia, particularly those from developing countries.

As regards promoting the application of international law and providing technical assistance to help governments implement their commitments under the outer space treaties, the Office will continue to provide assistance and information to Member States, as requested, and within its available resources.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, as you are all aware, in view of the very limited resources available to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the successful implementation of such capacity-building activities depends upon the support of member States and their institutions. We are very grateful that since the Office began organizing the Workshops on Space Law in 2002, the host governments of those Workshops have defrayed the costs of local organization as well as provided support for room and board for some participants from developing countries. Other member States and their space-related institutions, as well as regional and international organizations, also provided sponsorship for their

experts to deliver papers and contribute to the discussions during the Workshops. To complement this support, the Office has provided, from its regular budget, the funds to sponsor the travel and living expenses for a limited number of participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

I would, however, like to invite member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to consider becoming co-sponsors of the Workshops, particularly of their follow-up activities in order to enhance the impact of these capacity-building activities. While much can be achieved on a 'best efforts' basis towards developing a model education curriculum for a course on space law or for providing support to countries interested in developing national space policies and legislation, voluntary contributions in cash and in kind are needed to make such activities a useful reality to assist developing countries while the interest raised by the Workshops at the policy and decision-making levels is high.

I would like to conclude by taking this opportunity to reaffirm the Office's commitment to serving the interests of member States in the area of space law. I would once again invite Members of the Subcommittee to consider how the Office might improve its role in providing legal services and in meeting the future needs of member States or matters related to space law and regulation. We would be pleased to discuss with representatives of Member States any views or suggestions that they might have in this regard.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Director of the Office, Mr. Camacho-Lara, for your very informative statement. I think that we learned a lot from your statement and so I thank you again very much.

Distinguished delegates, I have no speakers on my list so I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee.

Before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon. We will meet at 3.00 p.m. and at that time we will continue consideration of agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views. Time permitting, we will begin consideration of agenda item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. I

will then adjourn our meeting of the Subcommittee for the IISL/ECSL Symposium.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

As a final announcement, I would like to inform delegations that the provisional list of participants for this Subcommittee session will be distributed tomorrow. I would request all delegations that have not done so already to send an official letter with names of their representatives to the Secretariat as soon as possible so they can be included on this provisional list of participants.

Distinguished delegates, the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 12.25 p.m.