

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

Unedited transcript

712th Meeting
Monday, 4 April 2005, 3 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. S. Marchisio (Italy)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 712th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon, we will continue consideration of item 3, General Exchange of Views, and, time permitting, we will also begin consideration of agenda item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

In order to facilitate the work of the Subcommittee, I would kindly urge any delegates wishing to make statements under these items to inscribe their names on the list of speakers and also provide a copy of their statement to the Conference Officers as soon as possible.

At about 3.40 p.m., we will adjourn the Subcommittee's session to begin the 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, organized by the International Institute of Space Law, IISL, of the International Astronautical Federation and the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL.

You may recall that this particular issue, the remote sensing principles, was agreed upon within this Subcommittee last year as a recommendation for the

two institutions so we kindly thank IISL and ECSL for having followed our recommendation.

I would also like to remind delegates that at 6.00 p.m. following the Symposium, they are kindly invited to attend a reception hosted by the IISL and ECSL in the Mozart Room of the VIC Restaurant which is located on the Ground Floor of the 'F' Building.

General exchange of views (agenda item 3)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue consideration of agenda item 3 of our agenda, General Exchange of Views, but for the time being I have no speakers on my list.

Is there any delegation wishing to take the floor on item 3, General Exchange of Views?

I realize there is no delegation wishing to take the floor at the moment.

I will now begin consideration of item 4 but before doing so, we will postpone our consideration of agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views, to tomorrow morning.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (agenda item 4)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin consideration of item 4 of our agenda, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on

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.



Outer Space. I would like to remind delegations that there is also a Working Group established under this item which will commence its work later this week.

I have one speaker on my list. This is the delegation of Turkey. Turkey, you have the floor.

Mr. AYYILDIZ (Turkey): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Turkish delegation is pleased to see you again chairing the Subcommittee this year. We are sure that, under your able guidance, this Subcommittee will achieve substantial progress under the agenda items.

Mr. Chairman, since its first session in May 1962, this Legal Subcommittee has formulated and adopted five major outer space treaties and several sets of international principles. These treaties and principles constitute the legal ground of peaceful use of space technology which covers a wide spectrum of activities in different fields.

It is a fact that over the last decade, the quantity and the quality of space activities have increased significantly. In this context, we share the view expressed in this Subcommittee that the universal adherence to these treaties and principles and the implementation of the obligations under this legal regime should be considered by member States as a matter of priority.

Mr. Chairman, with this understanding, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to inform the Subcommittee regarding the status of Turkey in terms of the United Nations space treaties.

Turkey is a party to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies since 1968.

The parliamentary approval for the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched Into Outer Space, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused By Space Objects and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space, was obtained recently. Ratification instruments for these treaties will be presented to the depositories following a governmental decree to put them into force.

The ratification process for the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies is under way.

We would also like to bring the knowledge of the Subcommittee that the above-mentioned information has been presented to the Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Mr. Antonio Mario Costa in reply to his letter on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, another evidence of Turkey's commitment to further strengthen this legal regime is the registration of the Turkish BILSAT-1 satellite which was launched on 27 September 2003. Though the domestic ratification process for the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space is not concluded yet, BILSAT-1 satellite is registered in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolution. This registration was acknowledged in the document A/AC.105/INF.410.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to reiterate our commitment to further develop international cooperation in outer space activities.

Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Turkey for his statement and for the information concerning the steps that are carrying on in Turkey for adhering to the United Nations treaties mentioned in your statement. Thank you.

Is there any other delegate wishing to take the floor at this stage on this agenda item?

I see that you are all waiting with impatience for the beginning of the Symposium.

Distinguished delegates, I will now adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee for the Symposium organized by the IISL and the ECSL 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.

Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning.

We will reconvene here tomorrow morning at 10.00 a.m. At that time, we will continue with agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views, and agenda item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

Time permitting, and in order to make full use of the Conference Services available to the

Subcommittee, we will begin consideration of agenda item 5, Information on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law. By advancing the discussion on this item, we would also be able to maximize the use of the time that might be needed next week for the consideration of agenda item 8, Examination of the Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets, and item 9, The Practice in Registering Space Objects.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I am now pleased to give the floor to Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch of Austria who is chairing the IISL/ECSL Symposium.

This meeting is now adjourned until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.