

---

**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Legal Subcommittee***Unedited transcript*717<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Thursday, 7 April 2005, 10 a.m.

Vienna

---

*Chairman:* Mr. S. Marchisio (Italy)*The meeting was called to order at 10.22 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Good morning distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 717<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 5, Information on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law, and item 6, Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space and the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit. We will also begin consideration of agenda item 7, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

I then intend to adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee so that the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space can hold its second session and so that a preliminary exchange of views on the report of the open-ended ad hoc Working Group on the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets can take place.

**Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law (agenda item 5)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 5, Information on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law.

Are there any delegations wishing to speak on this agenda item at this morning's meeting?

I see none.

Are there any delegations wishing to address the level of participation of the entities having permanent observer status with the Committee? It is another issue included in item 5. You can take the floor if you wish on this item.

Delegations may recall that the Subcommittee has been requested by the Subcommittee to report to the Committee at its forty-eighth session, in June this year, on the means to enhance their participation of such entities in the work of the Legal Subcommittee.

I see no delegation wishing to take the floor so we will, therefore, continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 5, Information on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law, this afternoon.

**Matters relating to (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit (agenda item 6)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 6, Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space and the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit, Including Consideration of Ways and Means to Ensure the Rational and Equitable Use of

---

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.



the Geostationary Orbit, Without Prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

Are there any delegations wishing to speak on this agenda item 6 at this morning's meeting?

I see none.

We will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 6, Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space and the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit, this afternoon.

**Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (agenda item 7)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 7, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

I would like to remind delegates that at its forty-second session held earlier this year, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, particularly through its Working Group, continued to discuss an item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, under the multi-year work plan for the period 2003-2006, adopted by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session.

And I would also like to remind that the Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on holding a joint technical workshop with the International Atomic Energy Agency, during the forty-third session of the Subcommittee, in 2006, on the objectives, scope and general attributes of a potential technical safety standard for nuclear power sources in outer space. The Subcommittee also endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group that it continue intersessional work on the topics described in the multi-year work plan, as amended by the Subcommittee to allow for the organization and holding of the joint workshop.

Considering agenda item 7, I see France has requested the floor on this agenda item. You have the floor Sir.

**Mr. F. PELLERIN** (France) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at its fortieth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee adopted a new multi-year work plan for the years 2003-2006 with a view to defining an international framework and set objectives and recommendations of a technical nature with a view

to characterizing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The French delegation notes specifically that this form of energy could constitute an important tool for certain future programmes of the exploration of the solar system.

An international initiative setting out a list of international objectives and recommendations of a technical nature, with a view to ensuring predictable and well-planned safety and security measures, is worthy of great support.

In close coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, and the Committee on Outer Space, we could develop this international framework in a way that would certainly be the most effective. The French delegation would like to emphasize the importance it attaches to this necessary rapprochement between the Space Committee and the IAEA with a view to setting out this international framework of objectives. Indeed, our position, which we have already expressed in the past, consists in benefiting from the development of such a framework based on the technical competence and effective procedures developed by the IAEA, proven on many occasions with regard to nuclear safety on Earth, while the Space Committee could contribute its own expertise in the outer space area. A mixed or joint working group set up under the auspices of the IAEA could be created for that purpose.

Furthermore, there would certainly be a link or a relationship between the work of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, IADC, and such a new working group. Taking into account the possible interaction between work on space debris and space objectives equipped with nuclear power sources, it is indeed necessary to make sure that the norms and international recommendations that could be thus developed should not contain any incompatibility between the two sets of objectives.

Therefore, the French delegation would favour pooling these efforts together to ensure cohesion and consistency in these two areas.

In conclusion, taking into account the ongoing technical work, the French delegation believes that it is not appropriate at this time to discuss, within the framework of the Legal Subcommittee, any possible revision of the United Nations Principles. However, we would like to retain this item on the agenda.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much distinguished representative of France for your statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak at this juncture?

I see none.

(*Continued in English*) We will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 7, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee so that the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space can hold its second meeting and so that a preliminary exchange of views on the report of the open-ended ad hoc Working Group on the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets can take place.

Before doing so, however, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon. We will reconvene here promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 5, Information on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 6, Matters Relating to (a) the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space and (b) the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit, and agenda item 7, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

I then intend to adjourn the plenary meeting so that the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a) can hold its third meeting and so that the preliminary exchange of views on the report of the open-ended ad hoc Working Group on the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets can continue.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I now invite Mr. José Monserrat Filho to chair the second meeting of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space. This will be followed by the preliminary exchange of views on the report of the open-ended ad hoc Working Group, to be coordinated by the delegation of The Netherlands.

This meeting is now adjourned until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

*The meeting adjourned at 10.35 a.m.*