

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

*Unedited transcript*

731<sup>st</sup> Meeting

Monday, 3 April 2006, 10 a.m.

Vienna

*Chairman:* Mr. S. Marchisio (Italy)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.11 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-fifth session and 731<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all no doubt aware, the Subcommittee will be electing its Chairman for a two-year term during this session of the Subcommittee. I would like to inform delegations that in accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-sixth session in 2003, on the measures relating to the future composition of the Bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and pursuant to the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States nominated Raimundo González Aninat of Chile for the Office of Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2006-2007.

In its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee should elect its Chairman and noted that the Committee, at its forty-ninth session in June, would endorse the election.

I would like to inform the Subcommittee that due to air flight complications, Mr. González was, unfortunately, unable to attend this morning's meeting. With the Subcommittee's permission, I will continue to preside over this session until the new Chairman has been duly elected this afternoon, at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair.

If I see no objections.

*It is so decided.*

Distinguished delegates, in order to efficiently utilize the time and conference services available to us at this morning's meeting, I intend to proceed with the adoption of our agenda for this session, discuss several procedural and organizational matters, and begin our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views.

Upon his election, this afternoon, the incoming Chairman will then address the programme of work for this session of the Subcommittee and will proceed with the establishment of the working groups.

Are there any objections to this programme of work?

I see none.

*It is so decided.*

**Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 3)**

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.260. This provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreement reached at the 2005 session of the Committee, which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 60/99. Please note that there is an indicative schedule of work in the Annex to that document.

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

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



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

I see no objection.

*The agenda is adopted.*

### **Participation of non-members in the session**

Distinguished delegates, I would like to inform the Subcommittee that I have received communications from Belarus, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Switzerland, Tunisia and Zimbabwe 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 Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

I see no objection.

*It is so decided.*

### **Utilization of conference services**

Distinguished delegates, I would now 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 of the past years, the Subcommittee 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 of this present session.

Are there any objections to proceeding in this manner?

Thank you. I see none.

*It is so decided.*

### **Organizational matters**

I would now like to turn to some organizational matters. General Assembly resolution 32/71 requires that members of each United Nations body be informed at the beginning of each session of the resources available to it.

I would like to inform you of the arrangements made for this session of the Legal Subcommittee. This session is scheduled to be held from 3 to 13 April 2006. A total number of 18 meetings are expected to be held. Conference Room III, Conference VII, C0713 and C0727 are available for use by the sessions. Simultaneous interpretation is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Sound recordings will be made for the plenary meetings in the original language and in English and unedited verbatim transcripts will be made available following this session of the Subcommittee in all the official languages of the United Nations.

Please note that in the Annex to its resolution 56/242, the General Assembly adopted guidelines on limiting the duration of meetings, including the following:

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, namely from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., on working days; and

(b) Intergovernmental bodies should undertake a review of their meeting patterns and reporting cycles and, in coordination with Conference Services, adjust their meeting requests for subsequent sessions accordingly.

In addition to the above, for the last few years the budget of the United Nations has placed a number of constraints and restrictions on the capacity of Conference Services to deliver services as they did in the past. In particular, unscheduled meetings, ad hoc informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours, meetings on non-working days and extended meetings or sessions will most likely not be serviced by Conference Services.

I would also like to remind delegates of the General Assembly's request to cut down on the length of reports issued by the Secretariat, including the reports of intergovernmental bodies. I would, therefore, like to inform you that with regard to the current session of the Subcommittee, the Secretariat will endeavour to further shorten the length of the report, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary-General, without affecting its quality or

content. I would, therefore, ask for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Finally, delegates are requested to turn mobile telephones off when entering any conference room. Mobile phones, switched on and on stand-by, seriously interfere with the sound system in conference rooms and hence affect the quality of interpretation and sound recording. I strongly urge you to please adhere to this request. Thank you.

#### **General exchange of views (agenda item 5)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now suggest that we begin with item 5 on our agenda, General Exchange of Views.

I have a list of speakers and the first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Thailand. Thailand, you have the floor please.

**Mr. S. THIRAWAT** (Thailand): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Taking the floor for the first time in this august body, I would like to first of all congratulate your election to the Chair.

Mr. Chairman, it is gratifying for Thailand to participate, as a new member of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee, in the development of international space law.

As a co-sponsor of the "Questionnaire on Possible Options for Future Development of International Space Law", conference document A/AC.105/C.2/L.259, the Thai delegation would like at this outset to clarify its country's stance in this connection that the current international space law, conventional and customary, is a good basis for regulating space activities, not only of States but also of private entities. Hence, the five existing space treaties and relevant "soft law" should serve as a guide for drafting a composite United Nations Convention on Space Law, which should include new provisions for the aspects of space activities that were previously outside the scope of international law or were regulated within the national legislation of individual States. To this end, regard should be had of the relevant State practice in space-related activities and the regimes and principles in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that may be usefully applied *mutatis mutandis* in outer space, as well as the lessons drawn from the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Pending the achievement of such time-consuming task, certain urgent matters will need to be

dealt with concurrently with the drafting of the United Nations Convention of Space Law, for example, dissemination of classified data, which are of vital importance for the security of a country, obtained via remote sensing. And also, to avoid potential disputes relating to the legal regimes on liability and over-flights, the determination of where airspace ends and outer space begins, and the distinction between an aircraft and a space craft, basing on whether its mission is in the airspace or outer space, as will be expounded at length in Thailand's reply to the United Nations questionnaire on this matter. This should also be looked into.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Thai delegation would like to briefly inform the meeting about Thailand's space-related activities that:

Primo, Thailand has launched IPSTAR large broadband satellite, which is its fourth geostationary satellite, capable of carrying 12 television channels and accommodating four to five million terminals, in September 2005, and is scheduling to launch in mid-2006, its fifth geostationary satellite, Thaicom 5, which will have 14 Ku-Band transponders, seven of which have already been leased by a pay-television operator. Another four transponders will accommodate services in Thailand and the remaining three will be for services in Indochina. And while cooperating with Japan to use Earth observation satellite applications of the Advanced Land Observation Satellite, ALOS, the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, GISTDA, of Thailand also schedules to launch its Earth Observation Satellite, called THEOS, in mid-2007.

Secundo, Thailand's Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, GISTDA, has hosted an international symposium on Space Application and Space Law in October 2004 and Thailand has subsequently organized a space law seminar in October 2005 and will, in conjunction with the International Institute of Space, organize an international space law symposium in August 2006; and

Tercio, Thailand has participated in the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, commonly known as APSCO, in Beijing in October 2005.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Thailand for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Japan. Ambassador Sumi, you have the floor please.

**Mr. S. SUMI** (Japan): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am honoured to address the forty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. First of all, yes, I am very glad to see you Mr. Marchisio still residing over this meeting but just on record I also would like to extend our welcome to the new Chairman that everybody designated, Mr. Raimundo Gonzalez Aninat. I hope he will come to this session this afternoon.

I would also like to thank Mr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and his staff for their preparation work.

First, let me express our sincere condolences to the victims of the earthquakes that struck western Iran last Friday. Japan is committed, as a member of the planet Earth, to making as many contributions as possible to disaster management.

Mr. Chairman, let me begin by mentioning some of the noteworthy events that have occurred in Japan since the last session of this Subcommittee and that we expect to occur this year.

Last October, the fifty-sixth International Astronautical Congress was held in Fukuoka, Japan. At this congress, the forty-eight Colloquium of the Institute of International Space Law took place and discussions on international space law, as well as the Fourteenth Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition World Finals 2005 were held. As the host country, we were able to contribute to the smooth operation of the Congress with the support of the IISL members in Japan, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and university students. Today, more and more Japanese students majoring in law are becoming an active part in space law research and in the Moot Court of Congress. We look forward to their future contributions to the judicial circle of space.

Mr. Chairman, in Japan, through the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, and the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, Japan considers the contribution (construction?) of the system of satellite data application to the disaster management as one of its primary objectives. Through the cooperation with other countries, Japan has started to build the disaster management supporting system "Sentinel-Asia", the first step towards "Disaster

Management Support System in the Asia-Pacific Region".

Mr. Chairman, we would like to report on the launches of Japanese satellites and launch vehicles H-IIA and M-V. Japan has been trying to continue the steady and reliable operation of these launch vehicles since the Return to Flight Mission of H-IIA in February 2005. Last July, X-Ray Astronomy Satellite "Suzaku" was successfully launched on the sixth flight of M-V. This year, three consecutive launches took place in only one month, a feat that is highly regarded in our country. Advanced Land Observing Satellite "Daichi", designed to produce maps and monitor disasters was launched on the eighth flight of H-IIA in January. Following it, Multi-Purpose Transportation Satellite "Himawari 7", designed to forecast the weather in the Asia-Pacific region and control air traffic was launched on the ninth flight of H-IIA to the geostationary orbit. Furthermore, Infrared Astronomy Satellite "Akari", which is to perform an all-sky survey at infrared wavelengths, was launched on the eighth flight of M-V. Japan will continue to strive for successful launches and improve the reliability of our national launch vehicle technology.

Apart from launching activities, Japanese astronaut, Soichi Noguchi, participated in the Return to Flight Mission of the Space Shuttle, STS-114, carried out by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, of the United States. Additionally, the Optical Inter-Orbit Communications Engineering Satellite "Kirari", along with the ESA satellite "ARTEMIS", conducted the first co-direction laser-based optical inter-orbit communication experiment in history. Furthermore, asteroid explorer "Hayabusa" landed and took of the asteroid "Itokawa" which is currently orbiting between Mars and Earth. These results reflect our achievements in various fields of space exploration.

Mr. Chairman, let me now turn to some of the topics we will discuss the session.

First, Japan is a party to four space treaties: the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention. Japan consistently undertakes its space activities in compliance with these treaties. These treaties, which form the legal framework for our current space activities, are important in the sense that they provide a basis for the expanding scope of space activities. Although we will discuss this point in greater detail in the coming days, I would like to briefly state here that we consider it highly desirable that all countries commit to these

treaties first and foremost in order to strengthen the legal framework for global space activities rather than discussing a comprehensive United Nations convention on space law.

Secondly, the Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, which was preliminary drafted, will promote financing for space assets by establishing international security interests in them. It will also have a positive effect on commercial activities and should, therefore, be an interesting subject for discussion. Japan contributed to the development of the preliminary draft Protocol by sending Japanese experts to meetings to discuss this matter. Japan also organized a domestic study group consisting of legal specialists and the relevant persons mainly from industry. The group is primarily discussing security interests of space assets. Japan will continue to engage in this discussion.

Mr. Chairman, the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee is charged with the important task of promoting space law in order to ensure that space activities are conducted in a free and fair manner. Japan intends to help the Legal Subcommittee achieve its distinguished goals by contributing with efficient and productive discussions.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Japan for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished Ambassador of Brazil. You have the floor.

**Mr. C. MARCOS VIEIRA DE SOUZA** (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, allow me to extend to Ambassador Raimundo González of Chile my sincere congratulations on his appointment as Chairman of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee. I am certain that his undeniable experience and commitment will provide an invaluable contribution to the work of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I am particularly pleased to announce that on 20 February the Brazilian Parliament ratified the United Nations Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. In our view, the ratification of this Convention is a fundamental step towards the consolidation of a more suitable legal framework to pursuing our endeavours in the space field. Further comments on this issue will be conveyed under agenda items 6 and 11.

My delegation is also pleased to inform that last February Brazil and Peru celebrated an Agreement for the Cooperation on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Brazil expects this Agreement to provide an appropriate framework to further support initiatives of bilateral cooperation in the space field. Brazil regards the development of space science and technology as a matter of utmost interest to all countries and is committed to opening new venues of cooperation and partnership in this area.

It was within that spirit that Brazil has recently decided, in consultation with China, to make images of the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellites available to Argentina, Chile, Peru and Venezuela, as well as to any other Latin American countries that so request. This announcement was made during the Preparatory Meeting to the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Santiago on 28 and 29 March, and my delegation takes this opportunity to convey its appreciation to the Chilean Government for hosting that event.

Brazil would also like to commend the Government of Ecuador for hosting the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas. The Conference is a most welcome event and Brazil is committed to make it a useful opportunity to discuss appropriate mechanisms of cooperation and coordination amongst all countries in the region, in line with the Cartagena Declaration, which was adopted during the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

While welcoming the convening of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, my delegation wishes to underline that capacity-building for the development and use of space-based applications should be at the core of our regional cooperation. Brazil is of the view that the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean is well placed to meet that demand and reiterates its call to all Latin American and Caribbean countries to join it and thus fully participate in its activities.

Brazil strongly believes that international cooperation should be promoted in order to disseminate the benefits associated with the use of space technologies, especially in the utilization, interpretation and modelling of remote sensing data. In this connection, Brazil and China will coordinate efforts in order to make CBERS data available to African countries. Data provided by the Brazilian Data Collecting Satellites is already being provided back to Mozambique. Brazil is fully engaged in the activities

of the Capacity-Building Committee of the Group on earth Observation and, in partnership with the GEO Secretariat, the European Union, Spain and other partners of the Group, will organize, at the headquarters of the Brazilian National Space Research Institute, from 29 to 31 May, an international seminar to identify initiatives of capacity-building for Earth observation, so as to provide inputs into the implementation of the capacity-building actions contained in the GEO Working Programme.

Mr. Chairman, if you allow me a diversion from the main topics under discussion, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the mission that is being currently accomplished by Lieutenant-Colonel Marcos Pontes at the International Space Station. This mission has been called the "Centennial Mission" in order to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the pioneer flight of the Brazilian aviator Alberto Santos Dumont on the 14 BIS airplane. A century later, we are also very proud of Lieutenant-Colonel Pontes, who is the first Brazilian to be launched into space. He was launched from the Baikonur Space Centre in Kazakhstan on 30 March, together with Pavel Vinogradov from the Russian Federation and Jeffrey Williams from the United States. The mission of Lieutenant-Colonel Pontes will last for eight days, during which he will perform a series of eight experiments, designed by Brazilian research institutions and companies. Apart from its scientific interest, though, the mission has also proved to be of great symbolic value and is being accompanied with utmost interest by Brazilians at large. Brazil believes that space is, and shall always be, the province of all humankind. By sending our first astronaut into space, we want to live up to these words.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Brazil for his statement.

And I give now the floor to the distinguished Ambassador of Argentina.

**Mr. E. M. CURIA** (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Professor. Mr. Chairman, my delegation welcomes the fact that my colleague, Raimundo González, was appointed to chair this Subcommittee and we are certain that he will certainly guide us wisely because he has huge experience in this area and the full support of our delegation. We are also confident that he will soon take over his duties.

At the same time, Sir, we are very pleased to see you preside over our deliberations again because you did so in a most outstanding manner during the two previous sessions of this Subcommittee. We express our thanks.

We would furthermore like to highlight the excellent role played by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Director, Sergio Camacho, and we thank them for the very effective and professional manner with which they discharged their duties and prepared this meeting.

We would like to very much congratulate the Brazilian delegation on the occasion of the space flight of the first Brazilian astronaut just a few days ago to reach the International Space Station in the company of a Russian and a United States astronaut. This mission shows that international cooperation is the best possible manner to bring about the conquest of space and to make it real for a greater number of countries.

Mr. Chairman, Argentina very much supports COPUOS and particularly this Legal Subcommittee ever since the outset, ever since its creation, since we believe that it is the best possible forum to prepare a legal order that will provide for the use of outer space well beyond the possibilities in scientific and technological methods that a mere few countries possess to ensure access to outer space and develop research and international cooperation in this area.

We believe that that legal order should be based on the following principles:

The exploration and use of outer space must be done to benefit all States in conformity with the outer space treaty of 1967.

Second, the possibility of having access to outer space in an equitable manner for all members of the international community and the right of member States that are developing States to have equitable and non-discriminatory access to scientific skills and technology of more advanced States in terms of space technology, as well as access to training for their scientific and technical staff.

The third item of such a legal order should be international cooperation as a necessary element of any space programme. This form of cooperation should come about in a non-discriminator fashion that is unrestricted and comes along with wide technological assistance and also fostering and promoting scientific and international cooperation in space.

And the last item would be the need to reinforce the coordinating duties of the United Nations to benefit developing countries most particularly.

Mr. Chairman, as for the work programme of the present session, I would like to briefly refer to some of the items which we will take further when the proper times comes.

On six, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, we think it is important to continue our efforts in terms of universal accession to these instruments and we should identify the need to develop new aspects of space law. If that need were to arise, it could be done in the form of supplementary instruments.

Now on agenda item 8 (a), Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, Argentina believes that we have to make headway in our efforts to seek consensus to determine delimitation of outer space in respect of air space by applying a special legal regime. As for (b), still under item 8, the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit, Including Consideration of Ways and Means to Ensure the Rational and Equitable Use of the Geostationary Orbit, Without Prejudice to the Role of the International Telecommunications Union, ITU, we should note that there are needs and interests that developing countries share, irrespective of their geographical location. We will then take this item further and develop it.

Having said that, we are pleased to note that an agreement was reached during the thirty-ninth session of this Subcommittee, as reflected in document A/AC.105/738, Annex III.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly refer to the salient features of our activities in Argentina, through our National Commission of Space Activities during 2005.

In respect to Earth observation and the construction of radar and optical monitoring satellites, as well as applications for space IT, Argentina is a member of the International Charter of Space and Major Disasters and was responsible for coordination between April and October 2005 of those activities. In that context, we hosted a regional seminar with the participation of representatives of bodies in any way connected to disaster and disaster relief in Latin America. Argentina will be training regional experts to give them the skills to act as directors of projects wherever disasters occur.

The National Commission, CONAE, furthermore organized a seminar for the Inter-American Observation Initiative, as it is known, the Earth Observation Partnership of the America, EOPA, in Buenos Aires, and a workshop on training in Latin America, the topic being "Earth Monitoring at the Service and Management of Water Resources", also held in Buenos Aires.

A Cooperation Agreement was entered into to develop the Italo-Argentine Satellite System for Emergency and Disaster Management. The ASI was involved in Italy and CONAE in Argentina. This system will provide for large satellites with radar technology of a very sophisticated sort and a training programme for the users of satellite information, as well as networks for transmission of space data and IT tools development.

We are furthermore in an advanced stage of development for SAC-D, which was on board the Aquarius Mission of NASA, together with instruments of the Canadian Space Agency, the Italian Space Agency and the CNES of France. These SAC-D missions were done in the Brazilian Institute for Space Research in the context of the Cooperation Agreement entered into between the two countries.

We see that the benefits of space activity in Argentina go well beyond the borders and have embarked on international cooperation missions. In 2005, Argentina entered into agreements with institutions of the region to have joint projects for emergency management and public health. In this context, Argentina gives enthusiastic support to the achievement of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, to be held in Ecuador, as a mechanism which will make it possible to have in-depth cooperation between all countries of the hemisphere.

Mr. Chairman, on a world-wide scale, Argentina, in November 2005, took over the presidency of the Earth Observation Satellite Committee, CEOS, and is furthermore actively participating in the Earth Observation Group, GEO. This is an international initiative to create a global Earth observation system.

Furthermore, together with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency, Argentina, in Cordoba, organized a regional workshop on Satellite Information Applied to Public Health, focusing on tele-medical matters and panoramic epidemiology.

Argentina jointly organized with SELPER, the Symposium of Latin American Experts on Remote Sensing, the Fifth Meeting on Remote Sensing Education in MERCOSUR which benefited from the participation of an excess of 170 experts and participants.

This, in a nutshell, was the information I wanted to bring to your attention before I take the floor on individual agenda items.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much for that statement and kind words Ambassador.

(*Continued in English*) The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic. Professor Kopal, you have the floor.

**Mr. V. KOPAL** (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to express the full satisfaction of my delegation when hearing about the nomination of the distinguished Ambassador of Chile, Raimundo González Aninat, by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries for the position of the next Chairman of our Subcommittee. I hope we will have soon the opportunity to convey to him our congratulations on the nomination and later on on his election, as and when he arrives.

It is also my pleasant duty to appreciate the role that you have played during the last period in the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. Your great experience in space law and your diplomatic skill helped us in reaching progress in the work of the Subcommittee and it is our expectation that you will effectively continue in the further work of the Subcommittee.

Finally, I would like also to greet the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and all members of his staff for their very efficient work in preparation of our meetings and in fulfilling our decisions that could be reached in this forum.

Mr. Chairman, let me now make a number of general remarks on some of the substantive points of our agenda, as endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly by its resolution 60/99 of 8 December 2005.

The delegation of the Czech Republic welcomes that item 5 (6?) of the five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space remains on the agenda and the

Working Group of the Subcommittee will be re-established. Certainly, this Working Group has still much to do in proposing practical measures for the expansion of States Parties to all these treaties, as well as in furthering the awareness of space in general. In this context, we would like to highly evaluate the United Nations/Nigeria Workshop on Space Law on the topic of "Meeting International Responsibilities and Addressing Domestic Needs", which was held in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2005, in the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. As a participant in that Workshop, it is my duty to recall the merit for the successful proceeding of the Workshop, which belongs to Ms. Natercia Rodrigues from the Office for Outer Space Affairs. With a great dedication, she organized that meeting and, thus, contributed to its meaningful conclusions, particularly related to the needs of African countries.

As to the next discussions of the Working Group on United Nations Space Treaties, our delegation is interested in the consideration of the working paper submitted by Kazakhstan, the Russian federation and Ukraine, and co-sponsored by some other delegations. This paper was entitled "Questionnaire on Possible Options for Future Development of International Space Law". It might help the Subcommittee in the future orientation of its work.

The delegation of the Czech Republic has always paid a careful attention to information on the activities of international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, relating to space law. In particular, close contacts and cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system are essential for a meaningful work of the Subcommittee. We welcome that UNESCO decided not to elaborate a special declaration of ethical principles that should guide outer space activities, which would more or less duplicate the imperatives of the legal principles in force. Nevertheless, the delegation of the Czech Republic continues to be interested in a close interaction between space law and ethics and a close cooperation of our Subcommittee and Committee with UNESCO.

As to item 8 of the agenda, my delegation agrees that the Subcommittee should concentrate on discussion of practical steps that would enable to reach conclusions, particularly relating to the issues of aerospace systems. After a thorough examination of this issue, lasting now more 10 years, and after adoption of the summary thereof, the continuation of the discussion might be postponed until new results in



the development of aerospace systems require to renew the consideration of the legal status of aerospace objects.

In the matter of the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, our delegation has always held the view that this important area must be considered as an integral part of outer space and that its use was governed by the provisions of the United Nations treaties on outer space and the regulations of the ITU. May I recall in this context that it was the delegation of the Czech Republic which initiated, in 2002, the adoption of the formula by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which was endorsed by the consensus in the Committee, according to which “the geostationary orbit, characterized by its special properties, is part of outer space”.

Mr. Chairman, at its last session, the Legal Subcommittee and its Working Group spent plenty of time by considering the report of a special working group on the item called “Examination of the Preliminary Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment”, which was opened for signature at Cape Town in 2001. In particular, the report on one of the two issues assigned to the Legal Subcommittee for its special attention, namely the possibility of the United Nations serving as Supervisory Authority under the future Protocol, was thoroughly discussed at that session. To our regret, notwithstanding great efforts of many delegations which took part in those discussions, a consensus on the role of the United Nations as a Supervisory Authority could not be reached.

In the work of the UNIDROIT, which is the parent body of the preliminary Space Protocol, a certain lull occurred since the last session of its Committee of Governmental Experts, which has been considering the text of the draft Protocol. This work, however, should continue during this autumn, according to available information from UNIDROIT.

Nevertheless, our delegation, together with a number of other countries, supported to keep the item relating to the Space Protocol on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee to enable the delegations to be informed about the recent developments concerning the draft Protocol and comment on them. Since the next session of the UNIDROIT Committee is now expected before the end of this year, and, of course, the delegations from our Subcommittee are invited to attend this meeting again, it will be useful to keep this item in its present wording, also for the forty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2007.

At the last session of COPUOS, the delegation of the Czech Republic positively assessed the discussions of the Subcommittee and the establishment of a working group on the item “Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects”. We also appreciated the background paper carefully prepared by the Secretariat, document A/AC.105/C.2/L.255 and Corr.1 and 2, and a number of expert papers presented during the consideration of this item up to date.

Since, according to its work plan, the Subcommittee should draft its report on this issue in 2007, the bulk of work should be effected now at the 2006 session of the Subcommittee and at the Working Group. In particular, a set of recommendations should now crystallize, which would lead, *inter alia*, to increasing the circle of States Parties to the 1975 Registration Convention, to the improvement of registration practice of States and international organizations and to the standardization of the form and content of both the national registries and the announcements for the United Nations Central Register. In our opinion, General Assembly resolution 59/115, which incorporated the results of the work conducted by the Subcommittee and its Working Group on the Review of the Concept of the “Launching State” is a good example for the orientation of the remaining part of the work plan on practice in registration.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I must repeat the appeal which my delegation already made at the forty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, when discussing its agenda item “Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its 2005 Session”. Unlike the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee has been much less successful in reaching consensus on the inclusion of items to be discussed under an agreed work plan which promise to bring specific results in a firm timeframe and are essential for the progressive development of space law. The reports of the Legal Subcommittee dealing with the proposals for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee include a number of topics which deserve our attention and could be considered for selecting one or more of them for the next agenda to be discussed under work plans.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic for his intervention and his words.

And I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of China. China, you have the floor.

**Mr. J. GUIDE** (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Chinese delegation is very pleased to see you chairing our current session. At the same time, we would also be looking forward to the new Chairman presiding over our meeting. The new Chairman's name is Mr. Raimundo González. We believe that under your guidance and under the guidance of Mr. González, our session will be a full success.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese delegation would also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Ambassador of Brazil for his statement just now. In his statement, the Ambassador of Brazil mentioned the successful cooperation between Brazil and China in outer space. This successful cooperation between the two countries demonstrates that in this area in the cooperation between developing countries has a very bright or broad future.

Mr. Chairman, since the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, China has worked in accordance with international law and treaties on the peaceful use of outer space. We carried out a series of activities. Particularly in October 2005, we successfully launched Shen \_\_\_\_\_-6 manned spacecraft and sent two astronauts into space who flew five days around the Earth and returned safely to Earth.

The Chinese Government will continue to work within the framework of international law and upgrade our capabilities to fly in space. We will attain milestones in the manned space flight projects and more exploration projects so that our deep space exploration will be expanded further. China will also earmark more special funds for optimizing the infrastructure on the study of space debris and support the study on space debris mitigation measures so as to protect the space environment.

Mr. Chairman, over the past year, China carried out successful international cooperation with other countries, particularly developing countries in the space area.

In September 2005, the Chinese Government hosted the Asia Disaster Mitigation Conference. Three hundred and eighty-five officials, experts and scholars, representing 42 countries of the Asia and South Pacific region and 13 United Nations organizations and other international organizations took part in the session. They exchanged the experience of disaster mitigation

and adopted the Beijing Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Mitigation in the Asia region.

In October 2005, the Asian and Pacific Space Cooperation Organization Convention was signed in Beijing. Eight countries from the Asia and Pacific region, including China, signed the Convention. We believe that the Asia and Pacific Space Cooperation Organization will contribute to the exchange and cooperation among Asia and Pacific region countries in the area of space technology and applications and to economic development in our region and to promoting the livelihood and social progress of our region.

Mr. Chairman, the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes and should be for the interests and benefits of the whole humanity. However, there is widespread, non-peaceful use of outer space and this is a real issue confronting the international community. It should be seen that the existing outer space legal instruments have many deficiencies in the prevention of outer space militarization. For instance, there is no total ban on the weaponization of outer space and conventional weapons, other than nuclear weapons and other WMDs, are under research and development, which gravely threaten world peace and human security. Therefore, the conclusion of new treaties on the prevention of militarization in outer space and the strengthening of the present monitoring and implementation of existing treaties is an important task in front of us. We hope that the Legal Subcommittee will play a proper role in the prevention of militarization of outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of China for his statement and his words.

For the time being, I have no further speakers on my list.

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

I see none.

We will, therefore, continue, with your permission, our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, this afternoon.

**Statement by the Director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs**

Distinguished delegates, I would now 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 at this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Sergio Camacho-Lara, and on behalf of the Legal Subcommittee, invite him to deliver his statement.

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

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

Before doing so, I would like to express our appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership over the last two years which, among other things, included overseeing the implementation of the request of the general Assembly to send the model letter, endorsed by this Subcommittee, to Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States encouraging participation in the United Nations treaties on outer space. This initiative was one of the most results-based initiatives undertaken and has sparked a genuine renewal of interest by States to adhere to the international legal regime governing outer space activities. We also look forward to continuing to benefit from your wisdom as a member of the Italian delegation.

As we have been informed, Ambassador Raimundo González would only arrive for today's afternoon meeting of the Subcommittee. At that time, in accordance with agreement of the General Assembly, reflected in its resolution 60/99, the election for the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the years 2006 and 2007 will take place. I will at that time, then, extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ambassador González on his election as Chairman of this Subcommittee and assure him of the support of the Secretariat in facilitating his work. With his experience, I am confident that the Subcommittee will continue to achieve major accomplishments at this session and during the coming two years.

I would like to briefly turn to activities carried out by the Office in 2005.

In 2005, 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 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 1721B (XVI) has been circulated to all member States and can be found in document series ST/SG/SER.E/1-492 and in documents A/AC.105/INF.1-413 respectively.

In the past year, Canada, China, France, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Turkey, United States of America, the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, EUMETSAT, 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 Office's website, which continues to be updated.

The Office is also pleased to inform the Subcommittee that it has received and responded to requests from member States on mechanisms for registration of space objects. This is another indication of the renewed interest of member States in adhering to the treaties.

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 under Article XI of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

Last year the Office participated as an observer in the Third Meeting of the Representatives of Competent Authorities Identified Under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

Both of these Conventions serve as the prime legal instruments that establish an international framework to facilitate the exchange of information and the prompt provision of assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, with the aim of minimizing the consequences.

The Office, along with a number of other international organizations, is part of the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations established within the context of the above-mentioned Conventions. The Plan describes the inter-agency framework for preparedness for and response to an actual, potential or perceived radiation emergency.

The Office plays a role in the Joint Plan within the context of its duties to fulfil the responsibilities of the United Nations Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of certain instruments adopted by the General Assembly, which are particularly relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Promotion and dissemination of information on space law. In the past year, the Office has continued its efforts to promote and disseminate information relating to space law.

Every year, the Office produces a number of documents and publications relating to space law. The following is a list of publications for the past year.

A CD-Rom containing the treaties and principles on outer space in all United Nations languages.

A CD-Rom containing the proceedings, including Power Point presentations, of the United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Space Law, held in November 2004 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A publication on the United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space and other related General Assembly resolutions, which is the Treaty Booklet that we distribute on a yearly basis. This publication has been given a new look and two resolutions were added to the collection of documents contained in this publication. The symbol number is ST/SPACE/11/Rev.1.

The current status of signatures, ratifications and accessions to the various multilateral international agreements relating to activities in outer space. This report is reproduced on the basis of information provided to the Office by the Depositories for such agreements and appears as an insert to the Treaty Booklet that I have just mentioned. The document reference for the insert is ST/SPACE/11/Rev.1/Add.1 and it is current to 1 January of this year.

As you will note from these most recent publications, 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, Italy has now ratified the Registration Convention, Nigeria ratified the Liability Convention and Peru ratified the Moon Agreement, while EUMETSAT has declared its acceptance of rights and obligations of the Rescue Agreement and the Liability Convention. With respect to other agreements, Luxembourg has now ratified the ESA Convention, thereby becoming the seventeenth member of ESA, Singapore has ratified the Brussels Convention and Somalia has ratified the ITU Convention. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate those States and organizations.

Returning to the list of publications in the last year, the Office also produced "Highlights in Space 2006", which contains a section on international cooperation and space law. This publication is produced in cooperation the IAF and the IISL.

The Office has also published "Education Opportunities in Space Law", a directory of institutions teaching law.

In response to the recommendations of the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session held in 2005, the Office continued to invite a number of institutions to provide and update information on their programmes relating to space law. The Office updated the Directory on Education Opportunities in Space Law on the basis of the information received and this will be circulated as Conference Room Paper 3. The Directory will also be made available on the website of the Office. I am pleased to inform the Subcommittee that in the past year the Office received information from four new institutions. These institutions came from Argentina, Indonesia, Thailand and Portugal. The Directory now includes 44 institutions from 25 countries.

And finally, in our list of publications, the office produced the Proceedings of the United Nations/Nigeria Workshop on Space Law entitled "Meeting International Responsibilities and Addressing Domestic Needs", organized jointly with the Government of Nigeria, through its National Space Research and Development Agency, from 21 to 24 November 2005 in Abuja.

The Office has finalized the proceedings of the Workshop in hard copy and expects to be able to distribute the copies to you during the course of next week. The Office will also finalize the electronic version of the proceedings which will be included in the Power Point presentations and expects that the CD-

Rom will be distributed at the next session of the Committee in June this year.

At the beginning of the year, the website of the Office was migrated to a new server. The migration enables the Office to provide online services more efficiently to member States and the general public.

The Office is also pleased to inform the Subcommittee that it has improved the online Treaty Status Database. It has also created an online national space law database. The Office would like to invite member States to contribute to the database by providing texts of their national legislation relating to space activities. This information would then be available to States wishing to take guidance from other national legislation.

All of the above-mentioned databases, as well as the texts of the outer space treaties, material related to the Legal Subcommittee, proceedings of the United Nations Workshops on Space Law, and General Assembly resolutions from 1958 onwards relating to outer space, are now available through the Space Law webpage.

As part of a multi-year project, the Office has redirected human and technical resources to electronically archive documents of the Committee and its Subcommittees. The electronic versions of the documents will be made available through the website of the Office. A primary objective of the project is to ensure that documents are available to member States and the public in all official languages of the United Nations. To date, the website provides the reports of the Committee and the two Subcommittees in all official languages from 1990 to present. The Office will be regularly updating its website with earlier documents as they become available.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform the Subcommittee that the Office continued to maintain the special webpage set up to assist member States in accessing the series of "Limited Distribution" type of documents that will be before delegations at this session. The address of the webpage dedicated to this service has been distributed separately to delegations and will also be available in copies of my statement.

The next edition of the Space Law Update, an electronic publication containing information on matters relating to space law, is expected to be completed and circulated to all subscribers in the coming weeks.

This electronic publication focuses on activities of the Committee, the Legal Subcommittee and the Office itself that relate to space law. Space Law Update is available, free of charge, to any person who expresses an interest in receiving a copy. Since its launch in 2004, more than 400 subscribers have joined the mailing list of this publication. More information on this electronic publication and copies of the registration form can be collected at the back of the room, as well as being available on the website of the Office.

With regard 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, to support the exchange of information on national space law and policy and to encourage the increase of education opportunities in space law.

I am pleased to inform you that in 2005, the Office organized the fourth United Nations Workshop aimed at capacity-building in space law. The Workshop entitled "Meeting International Responsibilities and Addressing Domestic Needs" was held in Abuja from 21 to 24 November 2005 and, as I mentioned, was organized, together with the Government of Nigeria, through its National Space Research and Development Agency.

Approximately 75 participants from 21 countries attended the Workshop. Participants held positions in governmental departments, space agencies, international organizations, national universities, research institutions and the private sector.

The Workshop provided an overview of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and addressed the development of national space laws and policies. The Workshop also considered ways and means of enhancing the availability and development of university-level studies and programmes in space law, particularly in the African region. The final session was devoted to finalizing the observations, recommendations and conclusions of the Workshop.

A detailed report, including the recommendations, observations and conclusions can be found in document A/AC.105/866.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Nigeria and its National Space Research and Development Agency for their support in providing a number of experts to participate in the Workshop, for their support in organizing special events for the participants and for supporting the living

expenses of some of the participants from developing countries, as well as for providing excellent meeting facilities.

In 2005, 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 also continued to strengthen cooperation with space law entities and organizations with a view to contributing to worldwide efforts to promote understanding and the development of space law. The Office fulfilled this role within the limits of its capacity, in response to various requests and queries.

Among other activities, the Office participated in the Conference organized by the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States and the European Centre for Space Law on "Natural Disasters and the Role of Satellite Remote Sensing: Economic and Legal Considerations". This was held in Tunis from 26 to 28 April 2005 and the Office also participated in the Fourteenth Summer Course on Space Law and Policy organized by the European Centre for Space Law in Terni, Italy, from 5 to 6 September 2005.

The Office supported and participated in the Seminar on International Space Law and National Legislation organized by the Government of Algeria and the Algerian Space Agency in Algiers from 21 to 22 March 2006. The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Director-General of the Algerian Space Agency opened the Seminar. The Seminar gathered experts and professionals from Algeria involved in space activities, as well as the Deans of Faculties of Law of several Algerian universities. Two working groups were established during the Seminar to consider cooperation and training in the field of space law and to consider the development of national space legislation. The Seminar concluded its work with the adoption of a set of recommendations that aim at promoting the development of space law and increasing opportunities for education in space law in Algeria.

Finally, I am pleased to inform member States that the Office continued its cooperative activities with the Institute of Air and Space Law at Cologne University. In order to further the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, the Institute has, since 1989, produced a collection called "Space Law Basic Legal Documents". This publication is a loose-leaf collection consisting of four volumes with approximately 3,450 pages and serves as an essential reference and research tool for

those involved in the formulation, implementation and operation of space law and policy. Its loose-leaf format ensures that the material is kept fully up-to-date. Students, libraries and universities from developing countries can purchase the collection at special conditions directly from the publisher.

In April 2006, an online version of the "Space Law: Basic Legal Documents" will be available, in addition to the hard copy version. In order to facilitate the work of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2006 free access to the database has been arranged for all delegations and observers of the Legal Subcommittee, as well as for the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. I understand that the delegation of Germany will be providing more information on how to access the database, either by means of computers in the delegations room across from this Conference Room, from their Missions or from their own computers.

Regarding activities in 2006, 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 promote the development of space law.

Together with the Government of Ukraine, the Office will organize the Fifth United Nations Workshop on Space Law, to be held in Kyiv, Ukraine, from 6 to 9 November 2006. The principal objectives of the Workshop will be to build capacity in space law in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in the countries of the Central Asian and Caucasian regions, by increasing understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, promoting the development of national space legislation and policy and facilitating the development and availability of education programmes in space law. 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 Office's website once arrangements have been finalized.

In addition to the Workshop on Space Law, the Office has initiated work 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 its proposed Plan of Action, contained in the report of the Committee on review on implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. This Plan of Action was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/2, as you would recall. The Office

expects the report at the next session of the Subcommittee on the progress being made in this regard.

The Office will continue to explore different mechanisms of ensuring that information relating 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 needed and within its available resources.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, next year is the fiftieth anniversary of the Space Age and the fiftieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. To celebrate these significant milestones in the history of developments in outer space, the Office intends to hold special events through 2007 and is currently coordinating with interested parties carrying out the planning of such activities.

On the occasion of the forty-fifth anniversary of the first human in Earth orbit, the Russian Federation will be holding a photo exhibition in the Rotunda from 10 to 20 April. The photo exhibition will depict scenes from Yuri Gagarin's flight and will also illustrate the history of Russian cosmonautics and the modern development of Russia's space industry. The Office would like to invite delegations to view the exhibition and also to thank both the Russian Agency for International Information, RIA Novosti, and the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation for organizing the exhibition.

I would like to conclude by taking this opportunity to reaffirm our Office's commitment to serving the interests of member States in the area of space law.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I sincerely thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for his informative statement.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will elect the new Chairman of the Subcommittee. The incoming Chairman will then proceed with agenda item 4, Statement by the Chairman, and we will then continue consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views.

At 4.00 p.m., the plenary meeting of the Subcommittee will be adjourned for the Symposium on "Legal Aspects of Disaster Management and the Contribution of the Law of Outer Space". The Symposium is being organized by the International Institute of Space Law, IISL, of the International Astronautical Federation and the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I would like to inform at the end that at 6.00 p.m., following the Symposium, there will be a reception organized by the IISL and ECSL, in the special function room of the Vienna International Centre Restaurant, which is located on the ground floor of the 'F' Building.

I would like to inform you that informal consultations will take place among the members of the Group of Western European and Other States at 1.00 p.m. this afternoon in Room C0713.

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

I thank you all and the meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

*The meeting adjourned at 11.16 a.m.*