

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

Unedited transcript

734th Meeting
Tuesday, 4 April 2006, 3 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. R. González (Chile)

The meeting was called to order at 3.08 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Good afternoon to you distinguished delegates. I call to order the 734th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, and 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

Time permitting, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 10, Examination and Review of the Developments Concerning the Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment.

The Working Group on Agenda Item 6 will then hold its second meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Cassapoglou of Greece.

General exchange of views (agenda item 5)

On 5, distinguished delegates, I would like to continue our consideration of item 5.

My first speaker is the distinguished representative of Libya, on whom I call.

Mr. F. ASHUR (Libya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this session of the Legal

Subcommittee. We are convinced that, thanks to your capabilities, we will be able to have our session crowned with success and I am sure that our results will be excellent.

My delegation would also like to pay tribute to your predecessor, a member of the Bureaux of the previous session for the excellent way in which that session was concluded.

And my delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to Mr. Sergio Camacho, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for the efforts that he has been making and the important role that he plays to strengthen and disseminate outer space law throughout United Nations activities in the framework of space law and through seminars as well as other activities conducted to strengthen capabilities and support sustainable development in the developing countries to enable them to engage in disaster management, environmental protection, resource protection and management. We would also like to pay tribute to him at the efforts that he has made to conduct major preparatory work and upon the Secretariat in preparing the important documents which have been prepared for this session.

My delegation would like to stress that it is necessary to devote greater financial resources within the framework of the budget of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and to ensure the development and expansion of the programme activities to be conducted by the Office during the biennial period 2006-2007.

Mr. Chairman, I am no expert in international law or in space law so I will just be making some

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.



general comments with regard to the agenda. I believe I can say that the discussion is certainly going to be enriching the action engaged by the Subcommittee.

My delegation, Mr. Chairman, is very much aware of the fact that the spirit of cooperation between and among States and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which is characterized by transparency and very good political will on the part of the member States, will be enabling reinforcement of the role played by the Office and will allow it to properly play the role assigned to it in the best possible conditions.

Now on cooperation, I would like to stress the importance made for governments and relevant organizations to make available adequate information on their activities, legislation and international activities in relation to outer space activities to the Secretariat and this on constant, continuous fashion, in conformity with international treaties. These governments and organizations have to comply better with the United Nations treaties on outer space law and must, indeed, observe them properly so as to ensure consistency and between national legislations on outer space with international norms and standards in that sector.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation attaches particular importance to the strengthening of the participation of all States, including, in particular, the developing and African States, participation in space activities and applications for peaceful purposes so as to respond to their needs and requirements in terms of development and in human terms as well. In participating and drawing benefits from United Nations programmes with regard to space technologies, this is being done. And, in this connection, I would like to stress the importance of taking due note of all the concerns of States, including developing countries, which are trying to respond to all the challenges related to economic and social development, in particular struggle with poverty, hunger, disaster management, in such a way so the United Nations treaties on outer space are imparted a quality of universality.

Mr. Chairman, you probably know that ever so many developing countries, African especially, lack the most essential means that would allow them to participate in the basic space programme activities developed for the purpose of development and that they cannot draw upon the benefits of these programmes in an adequate fashion at all.

We consider that if the Office for Outer Space Affairs were to play its role properly and give the proper necessary resources and technical assistance to

the States, they would thereby be contributing effectively to encouraging them to joining the United Nations space treaties. It is absolutely clear that the programmes of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, seeking to promote these treaties in developing countries and the assistance given to those States, to apply those provisions and mould them into their national legislations, are of some of the most important means to that end. The other members of the international community also have to bring technical and material assistance to the fore. And when I refer to other members, here I have in mind developed States and international organizations so that the benefits accruing would be general, and here I am referring to the benefits of activities and programmes and space applications for development goals so that these countries are deprived of the basics of resources and structural capabilities so that these countries that have material economic structural problems which are virtually limitless would be able to benefit so that these developing countries, especially the African countries are, indeed, best positioned to draw benefits from this assistance. In this fashion, they should be afforded priority in this respect.

In this connection, my delegation attaches particular importance to the coordination role played by the United Nations Organization. The Coordination Centre for International Cooperation in the Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, and here, in particular, I am referring to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which is, indeed, playing a fundamental role in this field.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to refer to the programme of the use of outer space for non-peaceful purposes. Here we would like to stress that all States and international organizations must observe in an egalitarian fashion, all international treaties and agreements on outer space, in particular those treaties which govern State activities in exploring and making use of outer space, in particular the Moon and other celestial bodies as a _____ (?) condition for avoiding preventing the arms race and engaging in non-peaceful outer space activities.

We would call for a world where a state of cooperation reigns and where we can respond to these risks to the world and to mankind as a whole.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Libya for that statement.

And the next speaker is the distinguished Ambassador from Burkina Faso. I call on you Madam.

Ms. B. DAMIBA (Burkina Faso) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Burkina Faso has the honour of taking the floor during this forty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

First and foremost, Mr. Chairman, I would like to join those delegations speaking before me in addressing our sincere congratulations to you upon your election to the Chair of the Subcommittee.

We would also like to congratulate the other members of your Bureaux. We will be doing our utmost, indeed, to support you so as to bring about success in our efforts during this session.

COPUOS is at a very important stage in its work. It has the sensitive task of coordinating space activities with that of other players and making use of space for peaceful ends and development ends.

Because these activities are increasingly complex, they cannot be really conducted without the appropriate standard(?) setting framework and this is where the work of the Legal Subcommittee is of extraordinary importance because this Committee has become a role(?) regulator(?) of outer space exploitation. Nonetheless, various challenges remain to be met in this connection. Outer space has been termed common heritage of mankind but its use and its commercialization, in particular, continue to raise true problems for the international community. And it is for this reason the mood to pursue and develop codification to explore new fields within which legislation is needed must remain certainly on the agenda of this Legal Subcommittee. This remains a challenge to be met.

Mr. Chairman, Burkina Faso, very early on, got involved the work of this Committee because our authorities early on perceived the capital importance of space technology for sustainable development. And our delegation is very satisfied with the ever so many positive benefits that Burkina Faso continues to benefit from. We would like to thank this Subcommittee, the Committee, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and all its partners for this positive impact.

Among the items on the agenda of this forty-fifth session, some have been of particular interest to us. The definition and delimitation of space certainly

deserves special consideration because of all of the many implications which may result in conflicts among States. This is why it would be a fine idea if our Subcommittee were to adequately examine all of these interests of capital importance.

We would like to support the need to ensure progressive development which would be favourable to the rapid implementation of space law.

We believe that the accent should be put on training in space law and space science and technology. However, this sort of ambition cannot be implemented with the support of bilateral and multi-lateral partners.

Education, with respect to space law in developing countries, remains one of the conditions necessary for its populization(?) and for us to draw in young people. This is why my delegation calls upon the Bureaux to place emphasis on seeking out opportunities for students from developing countries. All players, governmental as well as private, international organizations, research institutes, should be involved.

Mr. Chairman, the International Workshop on Space Law, jointly organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Nigerian Government, for African States, was held in Abuja from 21 to 24 November 2005, emphasized and highlighted the need for developing countries, especially African ones, to develop competence from the education angle to strengthen their capability in the field for space law. And we would like to pay tribute to this initiative and thank the organizers of this Workshop.

As concerns the item on the use of nuclear energy sources in space, here we would like to pay tribute to the Workshop, jointly organized with the Agency, in parallel to the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, on the scope and general characteristics of safety standards applicable to the use of nuclear energy sources in space. This principle indubitably create a legal framework and universal standards regulating the use of nuclear energy sources.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, I would like to assure you that my country, Burkina Faso, will continue to advocate strongly the implementation of an international legal regime to regulate space activities. It is only in this sort of framework that mankind will be able to establish the basis for international cooperation that is real and really profitable to all States. And this is why all those States not having done so should sign

and ratify the five United Nations treaties on space. The accession of all States to these various legal instruments can but reinforce COPUOS action in seeking forth better effective work.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Burkina Faso for that statement.

I next call on the distinguished representative of Chile.

Mr. R. NUNO-LUCO (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Sir. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Chile, I would also like to express our great satisfaction to see you preside over the deliberations of the forty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, all sure that your skills and experience will bring us to a successful conclusion, especially, if I may be allowed a personal comment, for those of us in my country who are confident in your leadership.

At the same time, I would like to take this occasion to thank the authorities of the Office in Vienna and other offices, to congratulate them for the efficient work done in preparation for this meeting and preparing the documents.

And also, over the past session, the excellent work done by Professor Sergio Marchisio.

As you know, we recently held, last week, in fact, in Chile, the Preparatory Meeting leading up to the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, on 28 and 29 March, in the context of the observance of the International Air and Space Fair, FIDAE 2006. That Preparatory Meeting did generate a series of discussions all about space and in particular we gave recognition to the fact that space technology has a major significance in order to bring about sustainable development for peoples to overcome poverty via education and know-how.

Space Conferences in the Americas maintain an open channel of communication to help interregional dialogue, specifically in the area of the use and application of space technology in developing countries. On that very occasion, we had a seminar on "Satellite and Distance Education", where you, Sir, also deployed many efforts. There was assistance from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela.

Furthermore, the Group of Experts of the Office did attend and Dr. Camacho was there himself, as well as representatives from UNESCO.

Chile also reiterates its unstinting commitment, vis-à-vis, measures to achieve universal accession to the five treaties of the United Nations on the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. Furthermore, well aware of the constantly increase of space activities, there is a true need to achieve a universal legal regime, thus to promote a full knowledge, acceptance and implementation of those treaties and of all United Nations principles, as contained in the Charter on International Cooperation. That particularly applied to the developing countries.

As for the specific topics on the agenda, the Chilean delegation will refer to those in good time when they are taken up in the respective Subcommittees.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Chile for that statement.

I have a certain relationship there, a friendly one, with that country.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative, and my predecessor in these duties, the distinguished representative of Italy.

Mr. S. MARCHISIO (Italy): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Italian delegation, I would like to warmly congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Subcommittee for the period 2006-2007. We had the opportunity to appreciate your chairmanship of the main Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and are fully confident that under your guidance this Subcommittee will continue to fulfil its role as a central cradle where the application of space law is assessed and developed through the exchange of views and experience among member States. Let me add a personal and sincere congratulations.

We would also like to commend the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, for the remarkable support given by the Office to this Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly address this Subcommittee on the main developments occurred in Italy in the field of space law.

First, at the beginning of this year, the new National Space Programme for 2006-2008(?) was issued. This document underlines the priorities of the Italian space policy, taking into account the existing commitments towards international cooperation at the multi-lateral level, namely within the framework of the European Space Agency, the European Union and the United Nations, as well as at bilateral level.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, Italy became Contracting Party to the Convention of 1975 on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space by depositing its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Thus, the Convention entered into force for Italy the 8 December 2005.

Thirdly, Mr. Chairman, Italy was aware that this step implied an obligation to perform in good faith the Convention and to put itself in the position to meet its international obligations. In this vein, considering that the 1975 Convention on Registration is not fully self-executing and requires implementing national legislation, a new Law on the registration of objects launched into space was adopted by the Italian Parliament in July 2005. This Law has entered into force the same day of the entry into force of the Convention for Italy. It superseded previous administrative practices on national and international registration of space objects.

Concerning national registration, Article III of the Convention leaves the content of each registry and the conditions under which it is maintained to be determined by the State of registry concerned. Accordingly, the Italian Space Agency is entrusted with the institution and custody of a National Registry for the objects launched into outer space, including the information and the additional information concerning each space object.

The Law identifies the private subjects that are required to notify the Italian Space Agency with the launch and the required information. Firstly, all persons of Italian nationality that launch or procure the launch of a space object, including from the territory or a facility pertaining to a foreign State. Secondly, the Law provides for the registration of all objects launched into outer space by persons of foreign nationality from the Italian territory or from a facility under Italian control.

The entry of a space object into the Italian register is to be complied when Italy is to be considered launching State of the object concerned. If also other States are considered launching States for the same object, Italy shall register if it was so agreed with the other launching States.

The Italian Space Agency is requested to communicate the entries into the national registry to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which will transmit the information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman, as a consequence of the above-mentioned internal legal developments, my delegation is particularly interested in the work of the Working Group on the Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects reconvened under agenda item 11. We are confident that the Subcommittee will be able to reach positive results, identify common practices and recommendations which will benefit not only States that are parties to the Convention but also States that have not yet ratified it.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would also like to take this opportunity for reiterating its interest in keeping item 10, Examination and Review of the Developments Concerning the Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets, within the agenda of this Subcommittee for the next session. We are confident that the third session of the Intergovernmental Committee, which is negotiating the Protocol, will be held in Rome within the current year.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is convinced that this Subcommittee should make an effort to identify new items which could constitute the object of an agreement for inclusion in its agenda for the forthcoming years. We are, of course, ready to contribute to this discussion and confident that under your leadership we will achieve the expected results.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Italy for that statement.

The next speaker on my list is the Ambassador of Colombia. I call on you Sir.

Mr. C. AREVALO YEPES (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my country, I would like to express my satisfaction to see you preside over the deliberations of

this Subcommittee. You are representing Latin America as a region and you are indeed an honour to that region because you are constantly doing your duty and in that way you stand out.

We would like to thank Sergio Marchisio for having chaired the Legal Subcommittee and having made such a valuable contribution to our work.

May I likewise congratulate address words of thanks to the Secretariat and the Director, Dr. Sergio Camacho, for their unstinting efforts to promote space law and constant availability to the requirements of member countries.

The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, Sir, has played a significant role in space law. Over many years, there has been constant work for the international community and this has been based on the main agreed principles that guide space law. The rule of consensus is very important indeed because it brought closer stances and positions that did not seem to be, where it was not possible to reconcile them and, at all times, we had a very constructive attitude such as is the main feature of this Committee which, after all, requires, bearing in mind the presence circumstances, ongoing efforts to adapt and a closer intermesh of relations that are very complex, a real challenge.

Also the private sector and the commercial issues are now ever more important and an unexpected spin-off provides new dimensions in terms of inter- and intra-institutional ties. A variety of technical relations are just a few of the relevant issues, in addition to which, as a whole, COPUOS will have to come to grips with this and this Legal Subcommittee, in particular, to be up to the required standards. And, in fact, we have proven to be up to the required standards and you bear a testimony to that, former President of COPUOS. For us developing countries and Colombia, more particularly, the use of that limited resource that is also subject to saturation of the geostationary orbit, that is, is one of the major topics of this Subcommittee.

This is an ethical principle that has been upheld in the international community, the rational and equitable use, thereof, in particular, is fundamental to preserve and uphold the interests of developing countries, which is why the agreement achieved on the occasion of the thirty-ninth session really laid down the rules in term of the spectrum in the ITU and is a major progress in this area in the context of COPUOS.

That agreement likewise consisted of maintaining the item on the agenda in two separate paragraphs, (a) definition and delimitation of outer

space, which, in my opinion, is a great challenge and (b) 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 ITU, naturally.

We believe, and we hope, indeed, achieve progress in that direction that the geostationary orbit is requiring a *sui generis* settlement, giving recognition to its special status, which is why this is an area that should be retained on the agenda of the Subcommittee. We support statements already made by Ecuador and Indonesia this morning along such lines.

But, in addition to that, there are other topics where we have achieved gradual results, registration of space objects, the issue of liability, the principles of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, in the preliminary Protocol on specific assets and UNIDROIT. Naturally, a series of major lessons were drawn from this.

In Colombia, we would have wished to have greater organic interconnection between this and the Legal Subcommittee because we got the impression that these were separate compartments, so to speak. It is true that the argument of public law and private law, on the one hand, does create a distinction, but at the same time, there is common ground on the basis of the central issue, the Supervisory Authority.

Sir, I wanted to mention one aspect which is ever more visible in our efforts and that is the work done simultaneously in institutions that are specialized in developing space law. I say this because I attended some of these events and I must say that I was much impressed in one instance. The Space Law Institute has always been most active, as indeed in the context of the symposium in Fukuoka, Japan. It was an aeronautical meeting or preparing the Valencia conference soon to come. These efforts, not just on the part of the Institute, do supplement the work done by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs throughout the world. In Latin America, there was a major event in Brazil, under the auspices of the Brazilian Space Law Institute. So it would be a good thing to get more interaction between countries that have achieved progress and those exerting themselves to establish legal frameworks in terms of national standard setting. This is of significance because the national frameworks also shape the options of countries to have access, and not just the five treaties that are the basis for setting standards on an international scale. On some occasions, that equation should be borne in mind, Sir.

So there are major efforts that are being deployed and we, I think, should have more innovation as well in this area.

Another interesting development, which I noted in Japan, was the Lachs Moot Competition. We felt that this was a very useful exercise and should be adapted to the Latin American region. This is one way of promoting universities to consider space as a topic.

Our agenda, Mr. Chairman, would naturally have to give us new perspectives. I agree with Dr. Marchisio that we are to make new efforts to develop topics. Six, for example, which Professor Cassapoglou from Greece is now leading. This should be the proper place for consideration of the topic, of course, because, on the one hand, the present set of legal provisions should be assessed, but there should also be more innovation. We should take a critical and constructive angle, particularly in respect of the obstacles and impediments standing in the way of universal implementation of the treaties.

Finally, Sir, I would like to pay tribute to the Latin American region and, more particularly, the country you represent where you said you just had excellent relations, Chile, I mean, because, you see, you have just successfully completed the Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Space Conference to be held in Quito in July this year.

Anybody familiar with the region, that is Latin America, knows full well what the promotion of space means and the regional agenda that is very complex indeed with the priorities that come from the social, economic and safety side. Colombia attended that event with a quite important delegation and it was an occasion to outline the achievements of the region and also the Terms of Reference and was satisfied to note that I think we did discharge our duties.

What we need to do now is support Ecuador, now taking the lead on this subject. As you know, the country is very serious and has entered into a commitment in terms of the full success of this Conferences. These Conferences, as we have heard before, are just one manner of ensuring the peaceful use of outer space.

Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you distinguished Ambassador for that statement. I merely have one thing to add by way of a comment.

I was much impressed in Santiago. There were many achievements and Colombia attended that event and is now benefiting from those achievements, as indeed the whole of Latin America, what we have called an interregional dialogue and how to bring this about because I see that some delegations from other regions have had major seminars on this topic as well.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Romania. I call on you.

Mr. D. DORIN PRUNARIU (Romania): Dear Ambassador Raimundo González, let me express, on behalf of the Romanian delegation, my warm congratulations for your election in the Chair of this Subcommittee and express my certitude that the agenda of this meeting will be successfully accomplished under your wise and experience chairmanship.

I express, as well, my congratulations to Professor Sergio Marchisio, for the successful leadership of the Legal Subcommittee during the last two years, together with my hope that all the actions already started during his mandate will benefit of successful follow-up.

I would like to express also my appreciation to the very professional work done by the Secretariat by whose staff of the Office under the leadership of the Director, Sergio Camacho-Lara.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, in today's world, we are ever more convinced that space law should be used to enhance the legal framework for a more intensive and diversified participation of all countries in space activities for the benefit of all mankind. The humankind is facing more and more threats from the global Earth and space environment, from terrorism, from deadly diseases, extreme poverty and hunger. Space technology already proved its contribution to the overall mitigation of the effects of natural disasters, and space law had a significant role in establishing a legal framework for all these activities.

Nevertheless, we should improve the mechanisms and increase the efficiency of the space tools for better warning, monitoring and prediction, to a better preparedness to meet unfortunate major natural events. However, in the same sense, among the most pressing problems we face today are harmonizing economic development with global warming, preventing the use of advanced technology by terrorists and controlling infectious diseases. This broad comprehensive security concept, which goes beyond

military aspects and security of States, needs for its development, as a major pillar, the contribution of space activities, including here the major role of space law. In our opinion, this contribution could be undertaken by maintaining both the peaceful aspect of space technology development and fostering the maintaining of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman, I am able to announce that the role of space in adding value to the security concept has been already recognized in my country. The Romanian Space Agency, ROSA, is in charge since more than one year with the leadership of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Security Research. A National RTD programme on security has been already started. More than a dozen projects include the utilization of space technologies, as Earth observation, GNSS and satellite communications for the improvement of security-keeping mechanisms and for disaster monitoring.

Considering the global significance of the disaster management and security aspects of space developments, I might draw into your attention the need for a growing role of the Committee and its Subcommittees, together with an adequate definition of their mechanisms in order to maintain the capability to confront with the new challenges.

Mr. Chairman, Romania is continuing to develop its space involvement at the national level and together with the international space community. The Romanian Space Programme is further developed under the authority of the Romanian Space Agency and accomplished by more than 104 organizations with research, academic and industrial profiles. The five sub-programmes: space policy and infrastructure; space exploration; space applications; aerospace technology; industrial development and spin-off run, were completed during this spring with a space technology for security action. Running presently, a number of 88 projects involving several hundreds full-time equivalent progressions, the Programme recorded a substantial growth during the last year. Most of the projects are completed under international cooperation.

I will remind:

The contributions to international space exploration projects, as PLANCK and CLUSTER of the European Space Agency, Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer and FAS of NASA, COROT of CNES;

Development of space applications, as the Land Parcel Information System with the JRC of the European Commission, space tele-medicine with

European and United States partners, the establishment of the GNSS – Galileo Applications Centre, environmental monitoring for land degradation, floods and water management; and

Development of ground and onboard technology for space communications, navigation and a small satellite mission with industrial partners from Europe and the United States.

Romania is continuing to strengthen the cooperation in the frame of the European Space Agency towards a better integration of its space research and industry capabilities in the European programmes, as for space science, microgravity, Earth observation, telecommunications, navigation and positioning, space engineering.

I would like to mention, Mr. Chairman, that Romania became an ESA Cooperating State and the signature of the specific agreement happened a few weeks ago in Bucharest by ESA and the Romanian Space Agency, under the authority of the Prime Minister of Romania. By this new agreement, laboratories, universities and companies from Romania will actively contribute to the ESA space missions and technology applications. This agreement concludes also the establishment of the ESA European Cooperating States Committee, having as members the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania.

Agreements and technical cooperation project are ongoing and in preparation between the Romanian Space Agency and significant organizations, as NASA, CNES, the Russian Federal Space Agency, the Germany Aerospace Center, DLR, for projects directed to both science and direct applications of space technology, as for precision agriculture, environmental monitoring and tele-medicine. A new international cooperation in space where Romania is contribution directly is the European Union Framework Programme 6, which includes space development as one of the major priorities.

A government agreement on cooperation in the peaceful exploration and uses of space is under negotiation with the Russian Federation. Romania continued during 2005 the technical assistance for developing States and since this year is giving technical assistance to the Republic of Moldova for remote sensing applications in agriculture.

I would like to recall, Mr. Chairman, that space technology has been operationally utilized by Romania for the monitoring of the disastrous floods occurring during July 2005. The International Charter

“Space and Major Disasters” has been triggered and radar and optical satellite information has been acquired and processed by the French Space Agency, CNES, and ROSA. The Romanian authorities were daily informed on the flooding evolution and disaster maps containing pertinent information of the flooded areas were produced, together with three-dimensional fly-throughs of the flooded areas.

Mr. Chairman, concerning the sixth item of the agenda, I may inform you and distinguished delegates that Romania already ratified the Outer Space Treaty from 1967, the Rescue Agreement from 1968, the Liability Convention from 1972 and signed the Moon Agreement from 1979. We are now on the way to take the necessary measures to adhere to the Registration Convention from 1975.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, this March, Romania celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the first take-off of an airplane using its own onboard means, built and flown by the Romanian aeronautical pioneer, Traian Vuia, next to Paris. In the same time, this May, we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first space flight accomplished by a Romanian citizen and the tenth anniversary of the re-organization of the Romanian Space Agency.

Mr. Chairman, I reiterate the fact that Romania, a country with tradition and development in the field of space science, aerospace technology and space applications, will continue to give the space activities a driving role in the fields of national science and technology, development and security, taking into account the major role of space law.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you so much distinguished representative of Romania for that very comprehensive statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation. I am pleased to call on you.

Mr. P. G. DZUBENKO (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you very much Chairman.

Chairman, at the outset, the Russian Federation delegation would like to welcome your election to the chairmanship of our Subcommittee and we would like to wish you best success in your

position. We are sure that under your guidance our work will be given fresh impetus because we indeed have all been witnesses of your very active, proactive position in the development of progressive outer space law.

We would also like to state that we certainly would like to thank Mr. Marchisio for his very active participation in our work for the last two years. And we would like to indicate that we are happy to see in the Chair of our session meetings, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Sergio Camacho, as well as his collaborators from the Legal Office in New York who, with their professionalism and effective work, are indispensable pillars for our work.

We would also like to congratulate the delegation of Brazil with their launch on 30 March of the first Brazilian astronaut who is presently participating in the programme on the International Space Station. This is yet another example of the importance of productive, constructive international cooperation in this field.

We would also hasten to add that this year it has been the forty-fifth anniversary of the first launching of a man into outer space. Yuri Gagarin was launched and this opened the new era in the harnessing of outer space. And we would like to emphasize in this forum that, to a great extent, this launch imparted an impetus for the progressive development of international space law as a new codex of law because following this launch, after the very energetic and effective work done by the Committee on Outer Space and by our Subcommittee in particular, in the course of some 10 to 15 years, all of the five existing treaties and agreements, instruments of international space law were adopted.

At this stage, we would like to recall there is going to be yet another commemoration coming up. Thirty years will have gone by since the last real universal international treaty went into effect, and here I am referring to the Convention on Registration. Since then, unfortunately, there have not been such universally adopted instruments in this field, none resulting from our Subcommittee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, apart from the generally accepted Principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Chairman, I would like to emphasize that at this session as well, just as before, Russia is in favour of establishing the conditions for the proper harnessing of outer space which opens up broad perspectives for the use of science and technology for support of socio-

economic progress to address the major problems confronting mankind on Earth. As we see it, the arms race in outer space would be something which would have immediate negative consequences on our use of outer space and this throughout our world and this would have very great impact on the development of our cooperation. It is, indeed, in to our direct benefit to have outer space an arena for cooperation and not the arms race. And this is what we have been always advocating, the non-militarization of outer space and the avoidance and prevention of any offensive arms in outer space.

We should clearly recognize that, if we do not raise a very firm barrier in this field, in the future, out of the fields of international cooperation for peaceful uses, we can rather have a wave of conflicts in outer space and arms developments and this would certainly not be for the benefit of the international community in any way.

Chairman, distinguished delegates, colleagues, we believe, we are firmly convinced the indispensable foundation of the gradual development of international activity and cooperation for the benefit of all in outer space are international legal standards that would meet the standards and requirements of the day. The Committee on Outer Space and the Legal Subcommittee, we believe are the most reliable and prestigious for the organization of our response to how cooperation in outer space is going to be taking place. This is the main forum for cooperation in identifying the avenues of approach on the basis of consensus, which is very important for the subsequent activities which will be unfolding, given the universality of the instruments that would guide this work. It is precisely work under the aegis of the United Nations and of this Committee and of its Subcommittee that have guided all of the treaties which have fallen into place which are in effect for international space activities.

However, distinguished colleagues, life does not just stand still. There is a fast and furious development of science and technology. What we have witnessed literally over the past decade, the universalization of space activities, the development of new commercial entities, certainly put to the international community, to us, the question of how international space law is going to be involving and developing in the future. It is not for nothing. I would like to add that I said that one of the last universally accepted international space treaties was the Convention of Registration which has been in effect for 30 years as of this year. There are even more experienced people in this room than I who were involved in the work on the preparation of this

instrument and who naturally will remember that they were working on the backdrop of no private commercial ventures into outer space. There were different circumstances available. Everything was based on the supposition that States were to be the only players in outer space. And the Declaration on the Principles of Outer Space Activities, which were subsequently developed in other instruments as well, also states, very briefly, matters of liability relating to these Principles, but we really do remember that it was not necessary at the time to have any standard setting for commercial activities. There was no non-State activity whereas now the backdrop is completely different. Over the past decade it has changed and more recent even more so. There is much, much more lively extension of the commercial interests of private entities in outer space and this is something that we can but welcome, of course.

However, at the same time, it requires regulatory governance and international law. We must keep apace to cover this activity. What do we see over the past years since, unfortunately, to our deep regret, apart from some principles adopted by the General Assembly, there is something which we can term "soft law" for this field but there is nothing more than that. The Subcommittee has not gone any further along these lines and we can see that more or less effectively other fora are getting involved in this arena, other organizations are throwing out efforts into this arena. We are familiar with these issues. We are going to be talking about this, we are going to be talking about the impact of the Protocol on Equipment which is something which was borne in the framework of UNIDROIT. This is just one of the several practical spin-offs of the activity which is covered in this Protocol. There are other international organizations also putting a toe into these waters. I am not sure that it is always necessarily going to be effective. You are familiar with all of this, of course. We see yet other fora as well but with few(?) obstacles. They do not seem to be able to make any progress in Geneva, for example. We have ideas coming up against the problems of definition and delimitation.

There was some attempt to cobble together some pragmatic response to these problems. So this just pinpoints the importance of these issues, the criticality of our response to them which is not available for the time being. As we consider it the important potential of examining all of this in its holistic aspect is something which draws us back to the United Nations Organization necessarily.

Recently, we know that most of the representatives of various States are reiterating the fact

that it is necessary to have one single universal international legal regime for outer space and we have listened to the views of various delegations on this matter in support of this approach. And we believe that the need to identify the progressive nature of codification of international space law is something which is coming ever to the fore and this over more so since commercial and tourist launch vehicles have come into outer space that are being peacefully used.

So, once again, we would like to draw your attention to the importance of developing one single international regime for outer space. We believe that there we could find solutions to problems which are being bounced around for many years now the problem of definition and delimitation of outer space. This is no way theoretical. In ever so many instances there are purely practical, pragmatic aspects which come to the fore.

Then there are the issues of man-made debris in outer space. The last session, for example, many States may get the impression that we are trying to slow things down. Not at all. We are only speaking more about man-made space debris. But I just wanted to say that we really believe that this is an issue which has matured now, which needs to be taken by the Legal Subcommittee. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has been handling it so far. They wanted to finalize the work before handing it on to us.

Sooner or later we are going to be getting involved with this. It would certainly be easier to take this holistically, comprehensively, as a whole with other issues which are necessarily going to be interconnected.

We sometimes have fears that we are going to be making undue haste in broaching this issue. And very often, this is due to the fact that we are not sure exactly how it is going to be interacting with all of the other complexities in the international outer space regime. It would be better and more effective to address this as part and parcel of a universal regime.

These are just some of the aspects. I do not want to go on but there are intellectual property issues as well which come to fore.

We believe that this sort of comprehensive international instrument would allow us to go into all of the use of outer space issues, and this to the greater benefit of all the beneficiaries of such activities.

Chairman, we have been listening very carefully to the arguments presented against, in

particular, in this session. The fear is expressed that work on this sort of document could render rather more complicated the work within our Committee and Subcommittee. We, in our delegation, actually do not see how such a slow-down could be effected and why it should be if such a new document were to be developed. I would rather think that this would facilitate progress and this within 10 odd years within which we really have to come up with responses to these questions.

And this sort of codification has already taken place, let us say, in the Law of the Sea and there are two or three instruments in effect. And I think that this sort of impetus afforded to developments in the international Law of the Sea have been very effective. It really has not been seen yet in the air but there has been increasing debate about the possible feasibility and desirability of that sort of approach thereto.

As we see it, I doubt whether the fears and apprehensions perceived are soundly based. I think that the development of a new instrument cannot(?) be a problem because it could just confirm and draw within itself the tenance(?) in the other treaties. This was seen in the Law of the Sea and Narcotic Drugs treaties. I believe that this would just impart juridical power to the Principles already enshrined in the four basic treaties, plus the fifth one which is the set of Principles. I believe that these would be given more legal power, more punch as it were. And that would allow us to consider and decide on a mutually acceptable basis our response to issues such as aerospace objects, delimitation, etc.

And space ethics could also be broached usefully in precisely this sort of a document.

I think that is how we could most effectively respond to these issues.

I do not wish to take any more of your time, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted, once again, to revert to our addressing this proposal in a constructive fashion. We have referred to the proposal which we have already heard that, of course, it would be logical to get the answers, responses from all States to a questionnaire addressed to them which would try to assess and evaluate their attitudes to such a development of international law.

Thank you Chairman. We will be speaking our views on individual agenda items as they arise later. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

I have some very brief comments to make. We have had some very interesting statements this afternoon on item 5. For example, unless I am mistaken, the Burkina Faso delegation made reference to the standard setting framework for sustainable development. It is a very important philosophical concept and I think we should give it our fullest attention.

I am sorry I may miss out one or other delegation in my list. Italy said that there was a need to insert an item on our agenda but we have to continue to make headway.

Colombia made reference to a critical approach and to have, therefore, continued and ongoing study of the treaties in a working group, chaired by the distinguished representative of Greece, at this point in time.

And the Russian Federation has just made reference to a holistic perspective but on the basis of consensus, to be borne in mind.

I think one other delegation stated that science and technology is forging ahead at such great speed that space law, unfortunately, is lagging behind and I insist on the fact that we should have working methods better in line with the requirement and in keeping with that fast pace otherwise we will lag behind.

I would now like to suspend the meeting for just a minute and 25 seconds.

The meeting was suspended at 4.34 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 4.42 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Distinguished representatives, you seem to be far happier now so let us resume our deliberations on agenda item 5.

I am pleased to call on the representative of EUMETSAT. I call on you Madam.

Ms. K. ERNST (EUMETSAT): Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you for the opportunity to address this Legal Subcommittee.

It has been quite some time since EUMETSAT actually participated in the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee so all I will do is I will present some of the activities that EUMETSAT carried out over the last few years and I will tell you what is on the legal agenda of EUMETSAT.

EUMETSAT is the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites. We are an international organization that operates meteorological satellites and we comprise 19 member States and 11 Cooperating States. We operate both geostationary satellites soon and we will operate also polar orbiting satellites.

In August 2002, EUMETSAT launched the first satellite of the Meteosat Second Generation satellite series and this satellite has been operational since the beginning of 2003. And the second satellite of that series was launched only in December last year.

EUMETSAT also established the EUMETSAT Polar Satellite Programme, which is called the EPS Programme, and this programme comprises a satellite series with three polar orbiting satellites called Metop and the launch of the first satellite of the EPS series is schedule for the middle of this year.

The EPS Programme is the European contribution to a joint European-United States satellite system and it consists of a spacecraft called EUMETSAT and by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, and these satellites will pass over a particular region of the globe at nearly the same time each day. The systems consists of eight United States and European instruments and other partners in that programme are the European Space Agency and the French Space Agency.

Also in the context of international cooperation, EUMETSAT is close to signing a four-partite memorandum regarding the Jason-2 Altimetry Programme. This Programme is EUMETSAT's contribution to the Ocean Surface Topography Mission and partners in this Programme are the French Space Agency, NASA and NOAA. The launch of the Jason-2 satellite is planned for April 2008.

With regard to dissemination of its satellite data, EUMETSAT started last year an initiative to disseminate satellite data to South America via its unique broadcasting system for satellite data, which is called EUMETCast, and South America was part of the globe that was not yet covered by this system. The

EUMETCast covers basically the European region, Africa and the Indian Ocean region but not yet South America. The dissemination service started for South America in January 2006.

On space law issues, EUMETSAT, quite late, we actually acknowledged the responsibility for its space activities and we undertook a considerable effort in 2005 to declare the acceptance of rights and duties of the Liability Convention and a respective resolution was adopted by the EUMETSAT Council in July 2005. And after that, we sent the official declaration to the depositaries of the Liability Convention in London.

Also in 2005, the EUMETSAT Council adopted a resolution on the acceptance of the Rescue Agreement and that official declaration was sent in December 2005. And together with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, that EUMETSAT has accepted in 1996, these are the three international legal space law instruments of the currently five existing ones that EUMETSAT, as an international organization, can officially acknowledge.

I would like to say that, in this context, that the recognition of the responsibilities was also based on an effort made by the United Nations Office in Vienna, notably by the Director-General, who, in a letter to EUMETSAT, referred to the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 10 December 2004, by which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In that letter, the United Nations Director-General appealed to EUMETSAT and its member States to make a declaration of the rights and obligations under international space law treaties.

In particular, I would like to thank the United Nations Office in Vienna for this effort and for this well-written letter because that triggered actually the discussions within EUMETSAT and it helped us convince EUMETSAT member States to actually declare acceptance of this Agreement and these Conventions. Thank you very much for this.

A major challenge for EUMETSAT in 2006 and in the coming years will be to reconsider its Data Policy, in particular access rights, licensing and licence fee schemes for its geostationary and polar satellite data. We have currently the problem that several of our member States wish to liberalize the EUMETSAT Data Policy and grant access to satellite data on a

completely unrestricted bases to every interested user, but other member States are of the opinion that those users that do not contribute to the costly satellite infrastructure should make a financial contribution through licence fees.

Another subject is the enlargement of EUMETSAT. To date, EUMETSAT comprises 19 member States and has signed 11 Cooperating States and the Cooperating States status is planned to be of a temporary nature and Cooperating States are expected to become full members of EUMETSAT after five years. However, what we have experienced at EUMETSAT is that several of the Cooperating States and the step to become a member State has proven to be rather difficult, due to political and financial difficulties. And what EUMETSAT is currently considering is whether we should allow these Cooperating States to remain Cooperating States on a longer or even permanent basis.

Other issues on the legal agenda include the matter of space debris, this is of high importance to EUMETSAT, and the possibility to become a member agency of the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters". And under this Charter, each member agency has committed resource to support the provisions of the Charter and we are currently, in the Legal Affairs Division, we are also trying to prepare documents and trying to convince member States to become a member agency of this Charter. They are currently being analyzed in detail and then they will be submitted for decision by the EUMETSAT Council.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you the distinguished representative of EUMETSAT.

I wanted to ask. I wanted to particularly note the significance for the region of which I am a member, we would like to get the details of the plan that has just started up in South America, January 2006, more precisely. Thank you.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (agenda item 6)

Having said that, we have completed our consideration on the general exchange of views, agenda item 5 of our agenda, and we will next to consideration of item 6.

Before I call on the next speaker, the distinguished representative of Brazil, Mr. Da Cunha

Oliveira, I would like to congratulate him on the space flight of the Brazilian astronaut. It truly gives us great confidence in Latin America in regional cooperation as well.

I call on the representative of Brazil.

Mr. C. E. DA CUNHA OLIVEIRA (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My delegation is pleased to reiterate, in line with its previous intervention under the general exchange of views, that the Brazilian National parliament ratified, on 20 February, the United Nations Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Brazil had already become a Party to the Outer Space Treaty in 1969 and the Rescue Agreement and the Liability Convention in 1973. By ratifying the Registration Convention, Brazil is now its forty-seventh Party, having completed an essential step towards the consolidation of a more suitable legal framework to pursuing its endeavours in the space field.

It is worth to recall that in 1976, at the time of its inception, the Registration Convention was met with a certain scepticism from many developing nations, who believed that the data required from launching States to register space objects was not sufficient to assuage concerns affecting their national security. Back then, we were in the middle of the Cold War and, it might be said, though regrettably, that the Registration Convention was one of the casualties of that period.

Time has passed, though. The number of international actors with capacity for developing, launching and operating space objects has increased significantly. Legal certainty, consistency, predictability have come to be regard as essential elements to contribute to the development of activities in the space field. To the carrying out of private and commercial oriented activities, such elements are paramount. It was only natural that Brazil would strive to complete the lacuna existing in this part of its national legal framework, as it has successfully done.

Even though Brazil has only recently ratified the Registration Convention, it is worth mentioning that Brazil had already registered three objects launched into outer space, based on resolution 1721, adopted by the General Assembly in 1961. These objects were the First Data Collecting Satellite, launched in the United States on 9 February 1993, and registered on 24 February the same year, as well as the First Scientific Application Satellite and the First

China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite, launched in China on 14 October 1999 and registered at the United Nations on 14 November the same year.

After the ratification of the Registration Convention, Brazil will now focus on the establishment, at the Brazilian Space Agency, of a national registrar system. After setting up such a registrar, Brazil will be equipped to fully comply with its international obligations in this field and thus enhance the implementation of its space policies in an orderly and responsible way.

Brazil understands that the ratification and implementation of the United Nations instruments on the peaceful uses of outer space is an important means to promoting rule of law and better governance in that field.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you distinguished representative of Brazil for that statement.

The next speaker is the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. F. PELLERIN (France) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the Working Group established by the Legal Subcommittee on the Status and Implementation of the United Nations Space Treaties, had recommended, in the course of its forty-second session, that the Secretary-General send a letter to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of States not having acceded to the United Nations treaties. The purpose is to encourage States not Parties to accede. Both for those having signed to take the formal steps necessary for ratification. The same steps had been envisaged, these are the intergovernmental organizations.

During the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, we had to adjourn the convening of the Working Group and the purpose was to leave the time required for States and intergovernmental organizations to study these letters that they had received. In keeping with our position adopted during the forty-fourth session, we believe that it is wise to reconvene the Working Group on that issue during the forty-fifth session and this was done. We welcome that step.

The French delegation would like to find out what sort of replies the States and intergovernmental

organizations gave in response to the steps taken by the Secretary-General.

We believe that promoting space law is very important for the work of the Subcommittee. Indeed, the United Nations treaties are a necessary legal context and framework to accompany space activities. They define the regime that the States and intergovernmental organizations must comply with.

As stated in the past, the French delegation supports initiatives taken by the Space Committee, the General Assembly and the United Nations Secretariat to encourage countries that have not yet acceded to do so.

Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you distinguished representative of France for that statement.

I totally share your concern. It is a very important matter. The representative of Greece is not in the room but I do think it should be considered in greater depth in the Working Group.

The next speaker is the distinguished representative of the United States of America.

Mr. M. SIMONOFF (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The four core treaties governing the use of outer space, the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention, have served the Parties well over many decades. The United States is honoured to serve as one of the depositaries for three of these treaties, the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement and the Liability Convention. I have consulted with the State Department's Treaty Office regarding actions with respect to these treaties and I am very pleased to report that, since the Legal Subcommittee's last meeting in April 2005, our Treaty Office received in January 2006, an instrument of ratification of the Outer Space Treaty by Luxembourg, and, as we have heard, in February 2006, an instrument of accession to the Liability Convention by Nigeria. We would welcome any further information from other depositaries on any relevant treaty actions since this Subcommittee's last meeting. We would also welcome further adherence to these treaties and hope that those States and international organizations, including some members of COPUOS and some organizations that participate as observers to this Subcommittee, that have not yet

become Party to these treaties will carefully consider adhering to them in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman, this meeting also gives us the opportunity to take stock of the work done by the Working Group on this topic over the past four years. The Working Group began in 2002 with a three-year work plan to consider the status of the United Nations treaties on outer space, review their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as promotion of space law, especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Subsequently, the Working Group was given the additional mandate of reviewing the application and implementation of the concept of the "launching State", as reflected in the conclusions of the Subcommittee's consideration of the three-year work plan on review of the concept of the "launching State".

During the period of its work, the Working Group has taken a number of very useful steps in fulfilment of its mandate. It has received reports from member States on the status of their past and planned future actions with respect to accession to the outer space treaties, and on the steps they were taking to comply with these treaties. As just noted by our distinguished colleague of France, it has drafted a model letter and accompanying informational material that the Secretary-General has sent to States that have not yet acceded to the outer space treaties. These materials encourage those States to consider acceding to the treaties and note the benefits to, and rights and obligations of, States Parties to the treaties. The Working Group also prepared a resolution on the concept of the "launching State", which was adopted in 2004 by the General Assembly. The Working Group's efforts over the past four years have played an important role in contributing to increased awareness of, and accession to, the outer space treaties and we are encouraged by reports that we have heard at this session so far about additional adherence to some of the treaties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this agenda item, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you distinguished representative of the United States of America for that statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Indonesia.

Mr. I. R. INKIRIWANG (Indonesia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to reaffirm our commitment as stated in the general statement.

The Government of Indonesia has acceded to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, the Rescue Agreement of 1968, the Liability Convention of 1972 and the Registration Convention of 1976. In accordance with these treaties, Indonesia has continued to implement the principles set out therein in its domestic laws, regulations and bilateral agreements.

These are, among others, the existing regulations concerning the use of radio frequency and satellite orbits and the operation of satellite telecommunications, and drafting Indonesia's Space Act which is expected to be enacted in the near future.

In our bilateral agreement with the Government of Indonesia are at the moment drafting a bilateral agreement with the Government of the Russian Federation in the field of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The agreement is expected to be officially signed this year.

In that sense, Indonesia has continued to harmonize and increase the consistency of its national space legislations with international law.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you distinguished representative of Indonesia.

We have, thus, completed the debate on item 6.

I wanted to know whether delegations still have contributions to make or do we have full agreement in terms of what was said? And that would solve the problem.

I hope that silence can be interpreted to mean assent. Is that so Professor? Very well, this was set as precedent in terms of the discussion of the report. Whenever there is silence, I will be making profitable use of that, as impartially as possible, of course.

Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (agenda item 10)

Distinguished representatives, at this point in time, we should turn to the consideration of 10, the Protocol on Assets and Mobile Equipment.

I have no delegation on my list having expressed an interest in speaking on the subject.

Professor Kopal from the Czech Republic please.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to raise a question. We expect the representative of UNIDROIT coming to this meeting on Friday because he would probably make a statement for the discussion on information of international organizations and UNIDROIT is one of the international organizations and intergovernmental organizations. And his report would be very useful for our discussion on this item because he will report certainly on the recent events, the recent developments within the UNIDROIT organization itself and then probably our own discussion might develop and it would be useful to hear first the representative of UNIDROIT.

So my suggestion or my question was whether it would not be better if we postpone this item until the representative of UNIDROIT arrives.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Next, I would like to hand over to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs so that he can comment on that suggestion.

Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The item would not be closed but we will be having other item that we need to take care of next week so if we only opened it on Friday, we might be pressed for time. So statements might be made previous to the statement that is made by the representative of UNIDROIT.

And the other part is that we are not aware of the content of what will be included in the report, whether it might be something essential for the discussion of the Subcommittee or not. But the item would be kept open until the representative from UNIDROIT would make a statement. And the other possibility is that if the Subcommittee required more time for discussions, then it could go into the second week towards Monday. That is the view what the Secretariat could see it.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you.

I would like to explicitly support what Dr. Sergio Camacho has just said. Yes, that was the right week for the discussion of that item so it does not come as a surprise. And the other way around too, it would have been a good thing for the representative of UNIDROIT to be here on time, him adapting to the needs of this Subcommittee. But since the item will remain open, we could have it on Friday, but it is always a good thing to start off with the report. I have no other item for consideration.

I will adjourn this meeting so that the Working Group on Item 6 may meet. I hope somebody gets the Chairperson of that Group back into this room so that they can come to order.

I would like to draw your attention to the work plan for tomorrow morning.

We will meet at 10.00 a.m. sharp and continue consideration on 5, Exchange of Views, then 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, 10, a topic you already know by heart, and it is a very long title and it would be to offend your intelligence if I were to repeat it again. After all, you are far more intelligent than I am. There is no need for that. No questions, I assume?

Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting closed at 5.04 p.m.