

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

Unedited transcript

749th Meeting

Monday, 26 March 2007, 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. Before we start to take up the agenda, I would like to say something important, namely, an agreement that has been reached, which amounts to the following.

There is a large number of interesting issues before the Legal Subcommittee and these are matters which need to be taken up. We must update ourselves upon matters and we have also got to see whether there are other matters that need examination. What has been recommended, is that Professor Kopal, who is going to be the next Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, has suggested that he start informal consultations during this session, as two weeks we are here to consult all countries that have raised new issues, for instance, Brazil and others that do not immediately come to mind, while Chile has also come up with new ideas for that matter. The idea is to look into this, to see what kind of overlaps there might be, common points of view and so on and the idea will be to see how to move forward with negotiations to undertake and also to find out what the most appropriate way forward is in the near future.

I turn to Professor Kopal now and would like to say to him, that he can depend upon our firm support and we will be able to undertake these consultations with interested parties, whenever he wishes to do so. I would be grateful to him if he would do so at a time which is not incompatible with the meetings underway in the next couple of weeks.

Without further ado I call the 749th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to order. We are going to continue our consideration of our agenda item 3: General exchange of views.

At around 4 p.m., I will adjourn this meeting so that we can hear the IISL/ECSL symposium on capacity-building in space law. This symposium is being jointly organized by the above-mentioned bodies, the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law. I would like to point out, that we have all been invited to a reception organized by these two bodies and this reception will take place immediately after the session in the Mozart Room in building F.

Without further ado we will proceed with our agenda item: General exchange of views, I recognize Morocco.

Mr. S. TEMESMANI (Morocco) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure for our delegation to see you at the helm of our meeting. We would like to congratulate you upon the work you have already done and we would also like to assure you of our support and cooperation in your post. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat for the work which they have done by way of preparing this session. The Moroccan delegation is prepared to continue to provide its support and contribute to the work underway, in order to ensure that it is successful.

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.



Mr. Chairman, the international community has moved into a new era of concerns and new interests, internationally speaking. Given this new state of affairs and in order to broaden the field of action in the area of space techniques, in particular looking at the needs of emerging countries. Looking at these new prospects faced by humanity, we are determined to put scientific and technical progress at the service of mankind. It is up to us to come up with the strategies and procedures therefore, which puts us in a position to reach our aims and therefore we need to cooperate in looking for advanced solutions, taking into account the interests of all States and, in particular, those that do not have space technology at their disposal.

Space activities are more important in the role they play given this general development. Space programmes can, after all, contribute to improving the economic and social life of our citizens and can contribute to the improvement of international cooperation, both for States and for the citizens themselves. Having said that, these programmes must take into account the laws which govern the use of outer space as mentioned in the Treaty, which does indeed govern space, namely, the 1967 Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, space law has become a key, indeed a fundamental instrument, for the regulation, organization of space activities in countries, institutions and national, international organizations. The international conference organized by the United Nations on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that is, UNISPACE III, called upon all States to promote the development of international space law in order to meet the needs of the international community. That conference stressed the importance which the United Nations treaties can play here and it invited member States which are not signatories to become signatories, as quickly as possible and to integrate these treaties into their national legislation. Here, Morocco, for several years now, is an active participant at the various sessions of COPUOS and of its two subcommittees, as well as the various regional workshops co-organized by the Office and various member States. We are continuing to make considerable efforts to raise awareness in countries in our region, in order that they better understand the point of acceding to the principles and treaties which govern international space law.

Following the organization of the first space law workshop in 2001, Morocco via its Remote Sensing Centre and also in collaboration with the European Space Centre, organized the second workshop in Rabat in June 2006, on space law and space activities. That was a meeting which led to the

participation of some 100 representatives from Africa, such as, Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia as well as the participation of representatives of OOSA and COPUOS. The matters dealt with at this workshop were as follows: the principles and treaties of space law; the role and activities of COPUOS; principles underlining liability; telecommunications law; satellite television law; the risks linked with commercial satellites; the rights of new information and communication technologies; and finally intellectual property rights. This also involved two round tables, one on relations of countries within COPUOS and the second on national space law.

The debate following that meeting led to a large number of observations which demonstrated the interest caused by the legal aspects of international space law. In particular, considerable interest was expressed in the various presentations, a number of wishes were expressed, in particular, the integration of international space law in teaching and education, which is provided by regional centres and other institutions in Africa, as well as the broadest diffusion of information with regards to the work undertaken by COPUOS and its two subcommittees. The debates clearly demonstrated that international space law has an important role to play when it comes to dealing with the challenges of the application of the principles underlying the use of outer space and in addition, the point of ratifying the five space treaties by all developing countries, in particular in Africa.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in that meeting and who made a great deal of effort to make it easier to understand the point of taking interest in the legal regulation of space and in the five United Nations treaties. We have a special publication which has been dedicated to this.

Sir, my delegation would like to reiterate its support for raising the awareness of non-signatory countries, in particular countries in Africa, via the organization of regional international seminars on various different themes dealing with space law, in order better to raise awareness of the United Nations space treaties and principles as well as the _____ (*inaudible*) information exchange on national laws and policies for professional people who are supposed to draw up and apply such policies.

Finally, including space law as a part of the university curriculum as well as the promotion of national expertise in this area, it is our conviction, Sir, that in order to ensure the rational and equitable use of

outer space by all countries, it is important for the Legal Subcommittee to continue to look at all the aspects of item 6 of the agenda. The lack of the definition of delimitation of outer space could lead to a legal void when it comes to space law on the one hand and, the law governing air space on the other. We welcome the working group on item 6(a) and we hope that this will help our Subcommittee move forward in this regard in its future work.

Sir, as regards item 7 of the agenda and, given the importance of it and the impact of the use of nuclear power sources in space on safety, it is vital that the Subcommittee should focus its debate on this matter and it should look at the relevance of revising the principles which deal with nuclear power sources in space and should gather as much information as possible on this issue. An appropriate legal framework _____ (*inaudible*) pursuant to the principles for the peaceful use of outer space and which preserves the interest of all States involved.

Another point on this agenda is of interest for our delegation in particular, that is, the question of Unidroit _____ (*inaudible*) on the Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects.

As regards item 8 of the agenda, that is the 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. My delegation would like to reiterate its proposal that all member States should have their awareness raised, in particular, developing countries and this should be done in order to make available information on the need to take up this protocol. Some elements of the Convention require more clarification, in particular, compatibility between the instruments adopted by the United Nations in the framework of international law and those proposed as part of the draft Unidroit convention. The workings of the Unidroit system needs to take place in a framework which is in full conformity with the rules which have been established with regard to space law and which have been codified in the United Nations treaties in particular.

My delegation considers that the United Nations, as the first sponsor of such space affairs, is the international body which is in the best position to take up the role of a supervisory body of the protocol on space assets pursuant to the Unidroit Convention.

We welcome the work which has been done by the Legal Subcommittee but we have to note the

size of the challenges that we face, given the complexity and the multitude of questions which are caused by the rapid development of space activities and the use of outer space. We welcome the exceptional task that has been carried out and the results that have been attained thanks to the work undertaken by all delegations. The adaptation of our working methods here, to these new requirements, is ever more necessary to put our Subcommittee in a position to carry out its work and to meet the needs of rapid development of the peaceful use of outer space. Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Morocco for his very complete statement and I now turn my attention to Colombia and recognize Colombia in this regard.

Mr. C. ARÉVALO-YEPES (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of the Colombian delegation I would like to express our satisfaction at seeing you in the Chair of this Subcommittee. You take this up as a representative of our region and you are honouring our region therefore with your experience of the issues that we are raising. We would also like to congratulate the Director of the Office, Mr. Camacho and all his staff. We would like to congratulate them upon the important role they have played making sure that they play their full role when it comes to capacity-building in the area of space law, in particular when it comes to the cooperation on technical assistance and _____ (*inaudible*) consultation and particularly in the efforts done in favour of developing countries. My delegation was delighted to hear the request made by Switzerland by way of wishing to accede to COPUOS. We welcome to hear such a request which we are delighted to welcome and we consider that it is quite clear that Switzerland is determined to carry its role forward when we see Switzerland's participation in this SPIDER and the other programmes, such as, this space application in mountain areas and we would encourage everyone to make sure that Switzerland joins as quickly as possible.

The Legal Subcommittee plays a key role when it comes to codification of space law and, thanks to work going back over years, the Subcommittee has made tangible contributions for the international committee when it comes to the codification and drafting of the main principles of space law, which are based on consensus. This consensus rule, a proactive consensus in our view and not a consensus which is based on obstruction, has played a key role because we have been able to reach positions which did seem to be irreconcilable at times but which finally left to seeing things in a different perspective and this has meant we

were able to draft five legal instruments which govern space activities. At the same time, the Subcommittee needs to adapt in a continuous fashion, given the way the situation is developing and becoming ever more complex and given the dichotomy which is inherent to space activity. We have seen the arrival of the public in the private sector, commercialization, scientific and technical progress and unexpected developments into institutional relations or intra-institutional relations, as well as the question of the various different kinds of technical cooperation. The appearance of new strategic ideas and visions when it comes to civil and military use of space, as well as preserving the effective use of the peaceful use of outer space and this Committee, COPUOS, is a fundamental guarantor of those principles. Having said that, given all these issues, COPUOS has a very important role to play, as I have said, and it needs to make sure that it is up to this task.

As a developing country, Colombia considers that space is the common heritage of humanity, something that is quite clearly stated in article 1 of the 1967 Treaty. It is a fundamental principle and it is here that we need to judge the use of space, irrespective of the level of development of States. Hence the fact and this is why Latin America has such an important role to play here, this is why the use of the geostationary orbit must take into account the fact that we are talking about a limited natural resource and that there is a danger of saturation and therefore its use needs to be rational and equitable. It is a fundamental principle which needs to be respected if we intend to respect the interests of developing countries.

An agreement was reached at the thirty-ninth session which consequented this _____ (*inaudible*) coordination mechanism on the part of ITU and this is very important in this regard. It is important to insist on better links, therefore, between the different bodies of the United Nations. The above-mentioned agreement has meant that this issue has been maintained on the agenda in two different ways. On the one hand the definition and delimitation of outer space and here we are talking about a challenge for our Subcommittee and something that, thanks to Professor Monserrat Filho, this matter is being dealt with very effectively and there is the other matter, namely, the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including the examination of the means which put us in a position to ensure the rational and equitable utilization of the geostationary orbit without ignoring the role of ITU. It is our sense, that the geostationary orbit requires a _____ (*inaudible*) kind of regime, which takes account of its very unusual nature and this means that it is important to maintain this opportunity to debate matters within the Subcommittee, hence the need also

to look at the question of the delimitation of outer space in this context and this is something that we have just heard about from Morocco.

This is not the only matter that caught our attention. There are other matters that have led to gradual results when it comes to the registration of space objects and, the question of liability when it comes to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and this is something Mr. Camacho mentioned earlier. In the draft Unidroit protocol on space assets, here important lessons have been learnt and what we would like to see is more of a connection between this and the way in which we deal with it in the Subcommittee.

I would also like to mention something that is ever more obvious, namely, the work that is being carried out simultaneously by us and specialized agencies when it comes to the development of space law. Here I would like to say that I am particularly struck by the work which has been done by the IISL and the European Centre which jointly organized the meeting to be led by Professors Jankowitsch and Kopal, this will mean that there will be a better interaction between the more advanced countries when it comes to space matters and those who are making joint efforts to regulate space and promote the legal framework in this regard.

This is a fundamental matter because national frameworks, which are quite often very different from each other, ultimately determine whether countries can actually accede to the five treaties or not, after all, it is the five treaties that are the basis of national laws but sometimes I think you have to look at things from the other way round. I therefore think we need to involve ourselves in better awareness-raising activities. As you quite rightly said, Sir, we are faced with the fragmentation of international public law and this is absolutely true when you look at the number of sources of law and the various problems that arise as a result of that dispersion. Hence the particular effort that we have made, we made this effort at the Conference of the Americas to present to opportunities to standardize these matters.

By way of conclusion, we would like to underline the importance of agenda item 4 and the working group, chaired by Professor Cassapoglou of Greece, and the point is to examine the state of application of the five United Nations treaties dealing with outer space. This is something which we feel should be a kind of think tank looking at the current legal documents, we need to come up with a proactive consensus in this matter and particularly when it comes

to overcoming the existing obstacles by way of the application of these five treaties. Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much to the Ambassador of Colombia for his statement and the distinguished representative of Algeria has the floor.

Mr. S. FEROUKIH (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. Chairman, the Algerian delegation appreciates your skilful management of the deliberations of this forty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, we would like to assure you of our cooperation. We would also like to convey our thanks to the Office for Outer Space Affairs and in particular, Dr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, for the high quality of the documents prepared for us and for the excellent organization of work.

The Algerian delegation regularly participates in the work of COPUOS with a view to strengthening the international legal framework governing all space-related activities. We are convinced that promoting space techniques and technologies, particularly in the developing world, can make a substantial contribution to maintaining peace, protecting the environment and promoting the socio-economic development of the population.

The National Space Programme, adopted by the Algerian authorities for 2006-2020, is conceived as a way to ensure the maximum access to space technology based on the existing international legal instruments and international cooperation within the regional and international framework. In this context, I would like to recall that Algeria concluded, in 2006, the process of ratifying and acceding to two of the United Nations space-related conventions. These are the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects, the instruments of ratification for that Convention were deposited in October 2006 with the United States Government. The other one is the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, this was ratified by presidential decree on 11 December 2006. With the accession to these Conventions and to this, one must add our ratification of the 1967 Space Treaty, accomplished in 1992, Algeria is now a party to the three principle international legal instruments governing space activities, obviously with the rights and obligations arising therefrom. The implementation of the National Space Programme for 2006-2020 will be carried out in compliance with the existing international norms and standards. In this context, Algeria is closely following consultations currently underway among States and international organizations with regard to the

registration of space objects. The objective is to adapt our national legislation to these conventions which envisage setting up a national registry. In this regard, we call on OOSA to encourage regional and international cooperation with a view to assisting, as in strengthening the national capacity in the area of space law.

The Algerian delegation would like to thank the German Aerospace Centre for organizing in Berlin, in January 2007, a consultation meeting in which the Algerian Space Agency took part. We hope that the draft resolution adopted as a result of that meeting will make a contribution to the discussions currently underway within COPUOS on the registration practices of member States and international organizations.

Furthermore, the Algerian delegation welcomes the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2006, of a resolution on the use of information of space origin with a view to disaster management and emergency response, normally known as the SPIDER programme. This resolution crowned the efforts undertaken by member States of COPUOS over the years, to put in place this indispensable instrument to promote international cooperation in the area of the management and prevention of natural disasters.

On this occasion, the Algerian delegation would like to reiterate its availability to make effective contributions to the implementation of this programme and to strengthen COPUOS missions to promote space activities through similar initiatives, such as the SPIDER programme, which could be envisaged in such areas as the protection of the environment and the preservation of natural resources. Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Algeria for his statement. I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

Mr. B. SCHMIDT-TEDD (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all we would like to join those delegations who congratulated you for your chairmanship and we would like to underline the confidence we have in your guidance and leadership.

Mr. Chairman, when COPUOS is looking forward to its fiftieth session in June, this gives occasion to reflect what has been achieved and to take a look into the future at the same time.

In the last year good progress has been made with regard to promoting international cooperation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of space law. Space agencies _____ (*inaudible*) a variety of measures for promoting and teaching space law, for instance, Moot Court competition or the ESA summer law school. In June 2006, the International Academy of Astronautics presented the Cosmic Study on Space Traffic Management.

From our point of view, the _____ (*inaudible*) mission of Thomas Reiter has to be especially mentioned. Thomas Reiter was the first European astronaut visiting the International Space Station for a long duration mission. He conducted about 30 scientific and technological experiments and was also involved in an extra-vehicular activity on the ISS.

Furthermore, the launch of MetOp-A launch is to be mentioned in October 2006. The mission initiates Europe's long-term engagement regarding the supervision of the ozone layer and aims at providing more precise weather and climate data.

Intersessional consultation of the working group concerning the practice of states and international organizations in registering space objects took place successfully in Berlin. The successful conclusion of the work concerning the space debris mitigation guidelines at the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is especially encouraging. We appreciate the revised draft space debris mitigation guidelines and hope for an adoption of these guidelines as a code of conduct for all actors in outer space.

Germany would like to point out the importance and necessity of a continuous development and enhancement of the international legal framework for the peaceful use of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, the German delegation participates in this session of the Legal Subcommittee with the expectation of concrete results concerning the agenda items and with the will to further development of international legal framework. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you distinguished representative of Germany and once again I apologize for having involuntarily skipped your name. With this we have come to the end of the list of speakers on behalf of member States. Now I have the pleasure of giving the

floor to the distinguished representative of the International Institute of Space Law.

Ms. T. MASSON-ZWAAN (IISL): Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. Thank you very much for giving me the floor to present to you a short overview of the activities of the International Institute of Space Law in 2006.

We are very pleased to present this report which has been made available also to the delegates and let me just mention that a short addendum will be made available to this report as well. I would like to transmit the best wishes for fruitful meetings of the Legal Subcommittee from the President of IISL, Mr. Nandasiri Jasentuliyana.

During last year's session of the Legal Subcommittee, the IISL together with ECSL, organized a symposium dedicated to disaster management and its legal aspects. IISL was also represented by several of its members in the official IAF observer delegation to the Legal Subcommittee meeting and to the full COPUOS committee in June. In August of last year, IISL organized a fourth regional space law conference in Bangkok, Thailand, which is an initiative IISL started a few years ago with the first conference in Singapore and followed by similar conferences in Beijing and Bangalore. The sessions in Bangkok dealt with various topics which were relevant for the Asian region and the conference was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. The proceedings are about to be published by the McGill Institute of Air and Space Law in Montreal, Canada.

In June 2006, an interdisciplinary workshop on the policy and law of the exploration and use of the resources of the Moon and other celestial bodies was held in Montreal and was hosted by the McGill Institute of Air and Space Law and co-organized by IISL. This meeting had high-level representations from scientists and lawyers from various space agencies, universities and industry. A summary report has been published by McGill and the proceedings are also going to be published by McGill.

In October 2006, IISL held its annual colloquium on the law of outer space, which this year took place in Valencia, Spain. The sessions held there dealt with space transportation and launching, disaster management; property rights on the Moon; international cooperation in remote sensing activities; space law at times of armed conflict and the relationship between the private sector and government in space activities.

IISL also cooperated with the International Academy of Astronautics in a scientific round-table on nuclear power systems and organized the successful plenary sessions on regulatory challenges to the use of space. The proceedings of the colloquium will, as usual, be published by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

In Valencia, the world finals of the fifteenth Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Competition were held, after preliminary rounds had been held in Europe, North America and the Asia/Pacific region. The finals were, as always, judged by three judges of the World Court in The Hague and the winner this year was the University of Auckland in New Zealand, which was actually the second time they were the world finals winners.

In December 2006, the Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was organized by the National Centre for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi, together with IISL and this was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. The symposium will be held for the second time in December of this year.

Allow me to finish with a short look into the current year, of course I would like to remind you, that today and tomorrow IISL and ESL will host a symposium for the delegates on capacity-building in space law and we are extremely pleased, that this year, we have been asked to organize the symposium over two days and we will hope that you will all attend and you are also all cordially invited to the reception which will be held after today's session. Later this year, in September, the fiftieth colloquium on the law of outer space will be held in Hyderabad, India, from 24-28 September. It will address the topics of the impact of outer space law on regional policies, legal issues of private space law and space tourism, new legal developments in the protection of the space environment, legal aspects of satellite navigation and remote sensing and the fortieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty and we hope to welcome many of you to India in September.

That was a short summary of the activity report and I thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates for your kind attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the International Institute of Space Law and I congratulate you on your statement. It was very comprehensive and it is a much needed brief statement of the very important activities pursued within the

framework of this international institute. A great many developing countries watch with great interest and appreciation the activities of the Institute and I believe that a presentation of this kind testifies to its excellent and much needed work. Part of that work is the symposium that is going to take place here within a few minutes time, on a very interesting subject.

I would like to recall also, that last year and I think it is in paragraph 53 and 54 of our report that addresses that, we made a very positive statement with regard to the good work pursued by the Institute and the European Centre for Space Law and information is made available through the worldwide web and I believe Latin American countries are making ample use of it and I would like to also congratulate the Centre for its work. I would like to ask, if a representative is here, what has been happening in the past year, particularly with regard to the Latin American conference that took place, a rare event which I believe made a very important contribution. As far as I know and I think the Colombian ambassador would agree, we have not received any specific information as to the follow-up on the commitments that were undertaken at the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas. Also in parentheses as it were, I would like to greet here my Professor, Dr. Peter Jankowitsch, who is here with us, who is a former Foreign Minister of Austria, a good friend of all of us here. Mr. Jankowitsch, I greet you, welcome you and I am very happy and think it is a privilege for us to have you here in this room taking part in the work of this Committee.

Before we move on to the symposium we have planned for this afternoon, we have to do that to live up to the timetable that we have proved this morning, I would like to sum up the most important elements that have come out of the discussion that took place here today.

With regard to the statement made by Morocco, a reference was made to intellectual property rights in relation to space activities, this is something we will have to tackle at some point, no question about that.

With regard to the statement made by the delegation of Colombia. You said something that I believe is of critical importance to what we do here. Space as the heritage of mankind, the province of mankind and mankind's legacy. This is something we will need to reflect on, in terms of how to address it in legal terms. A very interesting perspective on things. We will have to make certain decisions and pronounce

themselves on the way we view space as mankind's heritage in legal terms.

Germany also made an important contribution here, you made some very important comments. The fiftieth anniversary of the European Union and of this Committee are important landmarks and we need to take stock and decide how to move forward.

The distinguished representative of Algeria also made a very important statement. We see from your statement that you have carried out a lot of work to be accepted not only as a very active member of COPUOS but a party to the major space-related international conventions. As Chairman of this Committee, I commend you for your work and for your commitment.

The Republic of Korea has also reported on its accomplishments here.

What we see emerging from this discussion is a strengthening of commitment and also on the part of those countries that have worked very hard as observers within the framework of this Committee, to become true actors in the international arena as far as the development and the application of space law is concerned. Observer may not be a very good term in fact, maybe lawyers would correct me. Some of the observers here have been truly active, have engaged in difficult negotiations, have made some very substantial contributions to our work and I truly thank you for your contribution.

I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee for the IISL/ECSL symposium. Before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning. We will meet promptly at 10 a.m. At that time we will continue consideration of agenda item 3: General exchange of views, so far it has been more of a silent exchange of views. We will begin our consideration of item 4: status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

Now I have the honour and the privilege to invite Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch of Austria to chair the symposium on capacity-building in space law. I remind the delegates that, following the symposium, they are all invited to attend the reception, which goes beyond a typical cocktail party, it will be a real and genuine opportunity to exchange views of a very high intellectual quality and people of great moral stature will be attending. Thank you very much.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.