

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

Unedited transcript

752nd Meeting

Wednesday, 28 March 2007, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. R. González (Chile)

The meeting was called to order at 10.09 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Good morning, distinguished delegates. For procedural reasons, this session is going to start with a session of the Working Group, chaired by our friend, Professor Vassilios Cassapoglou, on agenda item 4 and then we will reconvene the plenary session. Thus, I am going to ask my friend to take over and we will continue with the Working Group. After that, we will resume the plenary and, like every day, we have a number of very interesting statements in store for us.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Again, Good morning, distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 752nd meeting of the Legal Subcommittee and we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 3. We will then continue consideration of agenda item 4, status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. Time permitting, we will begin consideration of item 5. Before formally proceeding with this meeting, I wanted to offer a reflection, a comment if you will, on item 4.

It does not confine itself to the importance of ratifying the existing outer space treaties and emphasizing their relevance, that it is necessary to implement them, it is a holistic theme not merely a legal one. The great challenge, is to create a comprehensive, legal regime and we hear about intentions, we hear about positions for and against various regulatory instruments, we hear words about the need to ratify these treaties who have not yet done

so, but again, the important thing is to realize that it is a broader theme, which goes through the heart of what we do here. Now, we will start the formal part of our consideration of this agenda item and I call upon the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Ms. R. VÁSQUEZ DE MESSMER (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to express its satisfaction at seeing you in the Chair of this Subcommittee. We are well aware of your highest professional and personal qualities and your vast experience in the area. We are sure that under your leadership, this session of the Legal Subcommittee will be successful and you can count on our specific and substantial support. You can count on the support of the entire international community, in particular, the developing countries, who would most benefit from promoting the peaceful uses of outer space and setting in place a legal framework for that. Let me also express our gratitude to members of the Office and particularly to Dr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, for the illuminating report he presented to us, testifying once again to his deep commitment to developing the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the benefit of the international community. We are thankful for the ample and detailed information on the state-of-the-art of existing outer space treaties, reflecting the will and the commitment of the international community to move forward in this regard. We also thank the Secretariat for the hard work that has gone into preparing this session.

On the other hand, my delegation marks the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the historic Outer Space Treaty. This is an occasion for us

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to give some thought to the accomplishments of humankind and its legal community in that regard. This Treaty is a conceptual framework, as you pointed out, for the promotion of international space law in a way that would most benefit the quality of life and the shared interests of all countries.

Let me emphasize the fact that for my country, strengthening international space law is a matter of profound commitment for the State and the Government because the existence of such a firm legal framework will define the obligations and rights of all States. In this context, my country supports the idea of a special legal regime to govern outer space activities, to promote research and space activities for improving the quality of life, living standards of human beings, guaranteeing a quality prosperity and well-being to future generations. For this reason, in conformity with these principles, my country supports keeping the theme of the definition and delimitation of outer space on our agenda. We welcome and applaud those States who have sent responses to the legal questionnaire in that regard. My country, for its part, has responded to the questionnaire and pronounced itself for a single legal regime regarding navigation of aerospace objects, which would impact on both outer space law and air space law. Ecuador is discouraged by the fact that, not much progress has been made in this area, which causes legal insecurity for those involved in outer space activities and creates a barrier between the rights and the duties of all States. Ecuador calls on States to consider this subject at length, with a specific emphasis on such a single regime, so that the necessary will be mustered on the part of States.

With regard to access and utilization of the geo-stationary orbit, Ecuador champions a legal regime that would ensure equality in access to this limited natural resource, without discounting the possibility of a *sui generis* legal regime, applicable to this orbit, taking into account the interests and the needs of developing countries, as well as those with a specific geographic situation. On this matter, we will speak at greater length when it comes to that agenda item.

Ecuador considers itself to be a country with space-related interests for the development of humankind. This offers ample motivation for us in our work and, specifically, led us to organize the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas in Quito, in July of last year. Now, in our capacity as *pro tempore* Secretariat of the Conference of the Americas, we worked out successful implementation of the decisions of that important forum. As *pro tempore* Secretariat of the Fifth Conference of the Americas, we have set up a committee that pursues technical, scientific and legal

work, promoting knowledge of space science and technologies and we would like to inform members of the Committee that we have undertaken a number of research projects, with the participation of Ecuador and other countries, with a view to promoting the development of space, international space legislation, to promote international instruments in this area, to offer our analysis for competent institutions, academic centres and civil society in general.

At the international level, Ecuador has acceded to two major international instruments governing the aerospace regime and we have signed bilateral agreements, particularly with Argentina and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, my country has undertaken consultations with high-level institutions in a number of countries, to strengthen the project of setting up an Ecuadorian space agency. A body that would regulate and govern the development of the application of space science and technologies and promote the development of space law.

Finally, it is a pleasure for my delegation to convey to this Committee, information on behalf of the *pro tempore* Secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, that we have set up a committee that will, among other things, take upon itself the development of space legislation, setting up a registry of existing legal instruments in the area, will work with other countries of the region to promote the process of ratification of the existing treaties and agreements and, oversee follow-up to the decisions of international meetings in the space area and finally, will promote publication of documents related to the subject. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Ecuador for her statement and I now call upon the distinguished representative of Italy.

Mr. S. MARCHISIO (Italy): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Italian delegation, let me first reiterate our deep appreciation for your chairmanship and commend the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and his staff, for the organization of the present session of the Legal Subcommittee.

The last two years have been of peculiar relevance for the commitment of my country towards space law and legislation. We joined the fourth United Nations Convention of 1975 and enacted legislation for the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Beginning at the same time, a process that would lead

to the adoption of a more complete legislation on licensing national activities in outer space. This is in line with the developments provided for by the Italian National Aerospace Plan, adopted in 2006, which reaffirms as sectors of main national interest, earth observation, telecommunication, navigation, manned space flights, medicine and biotechnology, space transport and education. Developments within these fields include, the need for appropriate legal frameworks which are largely ensured by the four United Nations treaties, to which Italy is party and, by several other legal instruments, multilateral and bilateral, concluded by Italy within the context of cooperative space programmes, such as, the implementation of the earth observation satellite system, COSMO-SkyMed, developed with the bilateral intergovernmental agreement with France or the memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of earth observation with Canada, of June 2005. Followed by an implementation agreement on cooperation in the joint definition phase for a hyperspectral mission. Similarly, new developments are occurring with regard to the 1995 Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the bilateral cooperation between Italy and Kenya, concerning the Italian satellite tracking and launch station, San Marco, in Malindi, Kenya. The base today named, Broglio Space Centre, positioned in the equatorial area, is composed of a sea segment with four platforms and a land segment with telemetry, tracking and control facilities. The University La Sapienza of Rome and since January 2004, the Italian Space Agency managed the Space Centre, which supported several international programmes, such as, Arianespace and Titan launches; ESA and commercial satellite Early Phase Orbit Support (LEOP); Chinese manned flight missions, Shenzhou; NASA mission, SWIFT; and, the national mission BeppoSAX. In the framework of the international agreement between Italy and Kenya, regarding the satellite tracking and launch station in Malindi, Italy continues to support the technical education and professional training of Kenyan post-graduates and doctorates. In this line, we are convinced that strengthening international cooperation, under the rule of United Nations treaties, is the best way to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space and fiftieth session of COPUOS.

The Italian delegation took note with interest of the informal memorandum on the future role and activities of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, presented by the Chairman of the Main Committee, Mr. Brachet, to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee last February.

While taking into account that an upgraded version will be prepared before the fiftieth session of the Main Committee in June, we consider this memorandum as well-balanced and extremely useful for further discussion. Therefore, we suggest to include in the document, a more explicit reference to the contribution from the Legal Subcommittee to the future activities of COPUOS, in fields such as, global monitoring, global navigation satellite systems, international cooperation in space exploration, as well as, the development of space tourism or the mechanism needed to take decisions against the threat posed by near objects.

As far as the current work of the Legal Subcommittee is concerned, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction for the ongoing work of the three working groups, on status and application of the five United Nations treaties, the definition and delimitation of outer space and, the practice on registration of space objects and congratulate the respective chairmen for their commitment and for the results that they have already achieved, or are going to achieve, during this session.

On point 8 of our agenda, namely, 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 Italian delegation is pleased to confirm its full support to the ongoing work realized by UNIDROIT, the intergovernmental organization whose name is a combination of the two French terms, unification et droit. The fact that UNIDROIT Committee of Governmental Experts on the Space Asset Protocol has not been able to meet since October 2004, is mainly due to the priority that has necessarily had to be given to the first Protocol on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment and to the completion of negotiations concerning the second Protocol on Matters Specific to Railway Rolling Stock.

In this regard, our delegation notes, on the one side, that the 2001 Capetown Convention and the first protocol thereto on matters specific to aircraft equipment, both ratified by 16 States, are fully providing data specific to serve the user community with the required legal framework, as it is shown by the wide acceptance of the International Registry for Aircraft Objects after only ten months of operation. On the other side, Italy was one of the first States together with Gabon, Luxembourg and Switzerland, who signed the second protocol to the Capetown Convention, that on matters specific to railway rolling stock, opened for signature in Luxembourg in February 2007, at the conclusion of the diplomatic conference that adopted the same protocol. Furthermore, during the General

Assembly of UNIDROIT member States, at its fifty-ninth session, held 1 December 2006, the Italian delegation fully endorsed the decision to assign the protocol on space assets, priority status, in the context of UNIDROIT work programme for 2006-2008 triennium. We are confident indeed that a time has come to complete the work on the third protocol on matters specific to space assets. The Italian delegation is aware, that some intersessional requirements have to be fulfilled before convening the third meeting of the Committee on Governmental Experts and this, in order to guarantee a viable process to finalize the draft protocol. We are also aware, that a number of provisions in the draft protocol still need further rectifications. However, in our opinion, the space protocol is expected to become an effective instrument, securing the commercial investments into space industry. Being primarily meant for support of the financing of the satellite industry, the protocol may contribute to the development of other prospective fields of space activities. As an example, we would take recent developments in remote sensing and _____ (*inaudible*) direction as commercial manned space flights. In the this line, Italy participated with other governments involved in the intergovernmental negotiation to the one-day Government Industry Forum, held on 24 April 2006, in London. This forum recommended that the fourth round of intersessional discussions, before the committee could be reconvened, should take place in 2007. We are informed, that his pre-session meeting will be convened next June in New York. In the end, the Italian delegation is satisfied with this positive result and looks forward to participation of other member States of COPUOS in the negotiations, hopefully leading to the completion of the space assets protocol.

Last year my delegation informed the Subcommittee that, among the main developments that occurred in Italy in the field of space law, the acceptance by Italy of the Convention of 1975, on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, was to be mentioned. In fact, the Convention entered into force, 8 December 2005, and we also informed the Subcommittee that a law, registration of objects launched into space, was adopted by the Italian parliament in July 2005. This law entered into force, the same day of the entry into force, of the Convention for Italy, so preceding previous administrative practices on registration of space objects, followed until then by Italy, on a voluntary basis, in conformity with resolution 1721B, paragraph 1, adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1961. This law states, that the Italian space agencies are entrusted with the institution and custody of the national registry for the objects launched into outer space.

Concerning this point, we would like to kindly ask the OOSA Secretariat, through you, Mr. Chairman, to take note of, and to provide for, the correction of the language which is contained on page 76 of the publication prepared by OOSA, in cooperation with the IAF/COSPAR/IISL, Highlights in Space 2006, in which was distributed at the beginning of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee. There is, in fact, a paragraph commenting the Italian law of 2005, on the registration of space objects, which says the following, I quote, "each space object, launched, either by Italian physical or juridical persons, Italian launch base or under Italian control, must be filed in the Registry. No mention is made of objects launched abroad by Italian subjects, or upon request of Italian clients or for the eventual registration of foreign operators or international organizations whose headquarters are in Italy" end of quotation. This language must be changed, in order to provide a correct information about the above-mentioned Italian legislation. In fact, the Italian law stipulates firstly, that a space object is to be filed in the registry, when it is launched by physical or juridical persons of Italian nationality, that launch or purviewed launch of a space object. Here, the Italian law adopts the personal criterion of nationality, which is to be determined, according to Italian legislation on nationality. In view of this connecting link, registration will take place, not only in case of Italian physical or juridical persons that launch or purview the launch from the Italian territory or from a facility under Italian jurisdiction or control but also, from a foreign territory or facility, if Italy is to be considered under the applicable stipulations as the launching State.

Secondly, that a space object is to be filed in the registry when it is launched by foreign persons that launch or purview to launch from Italian territory or from facilities under Italian control, for instance, the San Marco/Malindi Launch and Tracking Station in Kenya, here the territorial criterion obliged to register a space object if, notwithstanding the foreign nationality of the launching person, Italy is to be considered as the launching State under the applicable stipulation. I apologize for this long remark but it was necessary in order to provide the Secretariat with the language that could summarize in a correct way the Italian legislation.

Finally, my delegation is ready to contribute to the consultations, under the guidance of Professor Kopal, concerning point 10 of our agenda on proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-seventh session. We are convinced that further delay will cause momentum to decline. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much to the distinguished representative of Italy for his statement. I call upon the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. F. PELLERIN (France) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The French delegation would like to recall the importance it attaches to the work of the Committee on Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee. We are happy that this year again, we can continue working under your chairmanship. We would like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in particular its Director, Dr. Sergio Camacho, for precious, valuable assistance to our work. Before commenting on the items on our agenda, we would like to point out that, since the forty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee, France has signed a framework agreement with the United States, on cooperation in the area of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. This agreement provides a legal framework to facilitate space cooperation between France and the United States over a wide array of activities linked to outer space, observation of the earth, sciences of the universe and research. It designates NASA and NOAA, as bodies in charge of implementing this agreement on the United States side and CNES, as the implementing body on the French side.

As regards the matter of space debris, the French delegation welcomes the approval of the text on guidelines for space debris mitigation, which occurred at the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The approval of these guidelines is the crowning of many years of negotiations involving space agencies, to define recommendations of the Interagency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) but also intergovernmental negotiations within the framework of this Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. These recommendations, without any doubt, constitute a major step forward in the efforts of various countries to limit the proliferation of space debris and COPUOS is indeed, the best forum for promoting the adoption of guidelines of this nature in the international arena, taking into account the increased number of debris and their impact on all space activities, now and in the future, France believes that it is necessary for States to abide by this instrument in the future.

Talking of the agenda before us at this Subcommittee session, there are some items that we believe to be particularly important, as regards the practice of States and international organizations with regard to the registration of space objects. The French delegation supports the deliberations of the Working

Group that has been put in place to consider this matter. The objectives of this work include, a harmonized implementation of international legal instruments promoting a better application of outer space law. As we already had a chance to mention, the French delegation would like to recall, that the 1975 Registration Convention is not going to be thrown into doubt. The work that we have referred to, are designed to improve the implementation of the existing Convention by those States that have acceded to it and to encourage ratification by those who have not yet done so. France will fully support the Working Group in its deliberations, with the objective of adopting draft recommendations at this current session.

I would like to recall the position of the French delegation with regard to nuclear power sources in outer space. This matter has gone through several stages within the Legal Subcommittee and now is closely linked to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. This Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, adopted a new multi-year work plan for the years 2003-2006, with a view to defining an international framework for objectives and technical recommendations to be developed with regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

At its forty-fourth session in February 2007, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee approved a new workplan for 2007-2010, for a mixed group of experts including representatives of the Subcommittee and of the IAEA. Close coordination of work between these two institutions would make it possible to develop such an international framework in a manner that will certainly be more effective. Taking into account the work currently underway on technical issues, the French delegation believes that it would not be appropriate at this juncture to discuss, in this Legal Subcommittee, any possible revision of the contents of the United Nations Principles on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. However, we believe that the item should be kept on the agenda for the future. As we did in the past, the French delegation would like to recall, that strengthening and consolidating international outer space law, should be the principal objective of this Subcommittee. For that reason, France is not in favour of going to a drawing board and trying to develop an international convention that would pull together all existing texts, to create a new single instrument. Indeed, on the one hand, such an initiative would considerably slow down the work of the Subcommittee over a number of years because it would be an extremely important drawing board and it would require the entire effort and commitment of the Subcommittee. On the other hand, such an initiative would blur or confuse the message that our

Subcommittee is sending out into the world because what it is trying to do is broaden accession to the existing treaties and improve their implementation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to thank the distinguished representative of France for his statement. I now recognize the distinguished representative of Burkina Faso.

Mr. D. KABORE (Burkina Faso) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Burkina Faso would like to thank you for this opportunity to take the floor at the forty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. This is an opportunity for me to congratulate both you and your staff once again because we are convinced that under your helmsmanship the Legal Subcommittee will make significant advances in consolidating the legal underpinning of space activities. We would like to state here and now, that we are more than willing to support you in your mission. We would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Camacho and to all his staff in OOSA, their expertise and their convictions have always been of use to us and particularly this year as we celebrate 50 years of the space era.

The principle of the peaceful and damage free use of outer space was something that lay behind the creation of this Committee and this is why the Committee has always sought the non-militarization of space and preserving the earth from the risk of collision, as well as, the non-pollution of space and the regulation of all space activities. The international community is today faced with new challenges and the Committee and its Subcommittees are directly faced with the challenges of the commercialization and privatization of space activities on the one hand and, the risks of using nuclear power sources in space on the other. We therefore need to come up with appropriate measures to ensure the responsible management of this heritage, which we have inherited from previous generations and we have the heavy responsibility of handing it on to future generations. I have no doubt that we will succeed in consolidating space law, which is a prerequisite for the proper pursuit of the peaceful use of space. From this point of view, I would like to welcome the organization, in the past two days, of the symposium on capacity building in the area of space law because over and above raising awareness of space law, this has raised awareness for the needs to involve the entire international community and especially young people, in pursuing this particular activity. We are convinced, that it was a judicious choice to include young people in this initiative and in this context and,

in conjunction with OOSA, we will be very happy to hold a subregional workshop to promote space law, via education in our region.

It is now certain, 50 years after the beginning of the space era, that space is a vital necessity for humanity and it will become even more so, thanks to progress in the area of science and space technologies, which place at our disposal, the fruits of this progress, we have had telecommunications, health care education, disaster management and weather forecasting. It is quite clear, that research in space technology has a great deal to offer, however, we must make sure that there is non-discriminatory access to space and to the fruits of research and space technology. This is very far from being the case, despite the conditions of UNISPACE III.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity that you have given me, to appeal to the scientific community and to this Committee, to look for new mechanisms in order to bolster international cooperation, the aim being, the effective transfer of technology for the benefit of developing countries.

My country believes in space, it believes in this Committee and its subcommittees and therefore, despite our limited means, we are making every effort to take part actively in the sessions and activities of this Committee. We took part in the international workshop organized in Nigeria, during November 2005, on space law and we are preparing for the second African Conference on Capacity Building in the Area of Space Law, which will take place in South Africa during 2007.

Our daily combat to achieve this peaceful and damage-free use of space can only be a success if everybody is sincere about it and therefore, we feel, that it is vital to raise awareness of African countries, in particular here, to ensure that they participate in this Committee and we would like to see them accede to the various treaties dealing with space activities. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to thank the distinguished representative of Burkina Faso and I would like to make a comment, if I might. I am particularly struck to see Burkina Faso in this Committee, it is a cause of delight and we are talking about a very major effort that is being made here and this is true of other developing countries as well. This is something that is a very clear contrast with a certain number of developed countries, which may be here but do not really participate, in the work of the Committee and I

note the presence here of the Director of OOSA and I wonder whether it would not be a good idea, to look into the case once again, of those countries who make it quite clear that they are not interested in this Committee. I do not need to name those countries, just to look around the room at name plates and without further ado, I would like to thank the representative of Burkina Faso, once again for his contribution.

I would like to underline that it is important for the African continent, just as it is important for Latin America, to be able to take floor on matters of such importance and, if you look at the figures for 2005 and 2006, you can get a picture of what has been happening but you can also see that there are matters that could be resolved using space technology and now without further ado, I recognize the representative of Ukraine.

Ms. N. MALYSHEVA (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*): My delegation, along with other delegations, would like to welcome you to your post of Chairman of this meeting, we would like to express the certainty that, given your enormous experience and your knowledge and, the relaxed and creative way in which you conduct this meeting, that this will ensure the effective work of our Committee. My delegation is also satisfied to note, the professional work undertaken by the Secretariat, under the leadership of its Director, Dr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, by way of preparing this session and also in the intersessional period.

Before I state the positions of my delegation on a number of items on the agenda of this session, we would like to bring to your attention the most recent space events in Ukraine. In 2006, our space activities was focused on the implementation of a number of priority projects in the third national space programme covering the period 2003-2007. As part of our international space cooperation, my Government signed an agreement in 2006 on cooperation on the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, with the following countries, India, Republic of Korea and Argentina. In addition, framework agreements on cooperation in the area of space, have been prepared for signature with the governments of Algeria and, between the Ukrainian Space Agency and the Nigerian Space Agency, NASRDA. In addition, the intra-State procedures have been carried out, which are necessary for the conclusion of a framework agreement between the governments of Ukraine and the United States, on cooperation in the area of the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes. In addition, work has been completed to set up a remote sensing satellite for Egypt. In addition, work is going on, on a joint project

with Brazil, in order to give rise to the launch centre, Alcantara, and a Ukrainian/Brazilian company, Alcantara Cyclone Space has been set up in this regard. We have also signed a plan with China on space research for the period 2006-2010. In November 2006, we held a workshop in Kyiv, on space law, this was a Ukraine/United Nations Workshop on Status, Application and Progressive Development of International and National Space Law for the UNECE region and its member States, chiefly, that is countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. In this symposium, 33 reports were read and interesting discussions took place, as well as, tackling the issues of the status of international space law in the states of the region and we discussed the prospects of its development and the correlation between international and national space law and the development of national legal systems and, there were discussions of space law, education and capacity building in the region. The workshop promoted mobilization of participants and we hope, has given impetus to the development of space law in the region. At the end of it, some two dozen articles were published which were both providing information and analysis and another result of this workshop, was the bolstering of the positions of the international space law centre in the region and I would like to recall, that this is a centre that was set up to be an international one but in practice, for a long time, it has worked as a national centre.

My delegation considers that all the points on the agenda of the forty-sixth session are very important and deserve comprehensive examination. We hope that the work of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee will help the further progress in resolving matters of practical significance, when it comes to the development of international space law. This year is a particularly important one for all those who are interested in space activities in any sense and, in particular, in space law, for we are celebrating this year a whole series of space anniversaries, which have been mentioned in this room on a number of occasions already this week. For members of the Legal Subcommittee, what is particularly significant, is those anniversaries which go back to the very foundations of international space law. Fifty years ago COPUOS was set up, under whose aegis, ten years after that, the first international legal instrument in this area was drafted and adopted, which rather enshrined vital and unchanging principles for the activities of humanity in space. The Outer Space Treaty is quite fairly considered to be a space bible, a sort of space constitution. The stable legal regulation of space is one of the vital preconditions to ensure an effective consistent legal regime in the space area as elsewhere

and therefore, we pay tribute to the authors of the current international legal instruments dealing with space, which have held firm for 40 years and we are very pleased to welcome those colleagues of ours here, who were present at the beginning of international space law. We consider that their experience, their knowledge and their skills are ever more necessary today. For life has not stood still, we are in a new millennium now and we will have new goals, new priorities and, at the same time, we will come up against new problems which could not have been foreseen at the dawn of the international space law era and therefore, the question of the progressive development of space law, in one or other form, must find its proper place on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.

At this session, as with many previous sessions, a number of delegations have expressed the opinion that, our Subcommittee currently has no issues of real serious legal work on its agenda but such work has appeared and very often we hear the opposite. We hear diametrically opposed positions expressed on this issue and, given the consensus approach to decisions, it might be that disagreements here would lead to stagnation and the treading of water and that progressive issues will not be taken up. At the same time, our delegation is convinced that consensus can be an effective way of taking decisions when there is definite encouragement and goodwill and when decisions take into account all the interests of all participants and when these decisions suit them. Consensus is something that requires flexibility on the part of all of us and also it needs to be used deftly, in order to achieve compromise. Here I would like to state that, with support from the Russian delegation and the Republic of Kazakhstan and a number of others, at the forty-third session of our Committee, we suggested studying the positions of delegations when it comes to the approach to the progressive development of international space law, by way of seeking compromise. A short questionnaire should be devised to this end. I would like to recall, that this was actually unanimously supported at the forty-fourth session, however, there has not been any follow-up. We therefore reiterate this proposal and we are ready, flexibly, to discuss the way in which it can be discussed, as well as, the contents of the actual questions in that questionnaire.

There is another point that my delegation would like to raise when it comes to rejuvenating the work of our Subcommittee and giving new momentum, I am thinking of the more active use of inter-institutional cooperation means, when dealing with issues on our agenda. First and foremost, cooperation

with other United Nations bodies and, indeed, not just United Nations bodies, by way of a positive example, we would like to note the significant progress in examining the question of the use of nuclear power sources in space, this progress is largely achieved, thanks to joint efforts between our Committee and the IAEA. We consider that opportunities, when it comes to achieving progress on the question of delimitation of air space and outer space, could be used in cooperation with the ICAO. A great deal has been said about the application of space research in order encourage sustainable development and, forgetting that conceptually _____ (*inaudible*) done on this by UNEP, and the discussions of questions of education in the area of space law, quite obviously, cannot take place without the participation of UNESCO. Indeed, looking at the idea of new agenda items for the next session, my delegation considers, in particular, that it would be a good idea to look at the matter of space law education and capacity building, as an independent agenda item. The symposium that has just taken place here, in this session, has quite clearly demonstrated that there are issues which are worth discussion and which could lead to decisions being agreed upon.

In addition, we need to cooperate more closely with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee which, in the last few years, has been daring and resolute in tackling various issues, unfortunately, we do not see quite the same dynamic in the Legal Subcommittee and this is particularly true when it comes to the matter of space debris, which is a matter that, in my delegation's opinion, has long since required discussion in our Committee. However, it is something where we constantly say that there have not been enough scientific and technical advances to discuss this issue and, in this connection, it is symptomatic, that as we put off this issue from year to year, the question of the legal issues of space issues is something that is dealt with in other organizations, in particular, the relevant committee of the International Law Association. My delegation is open to participation in the discussion of all the issues on the agenda of our current session. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to thank the distinguished representative of Ukraine for her presentation and it is now my pleasure, to recognize the representative of Cuba.

Mr. D. CODORNIU-PUJALS (Cuba): (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. My delegation is once again delighted to see you presiding over the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS and we know that under your leadership, we

will be successful in our efforts and you can depend upon my delegation in aiming at these goals. I would also like to express my delegation's gratitude at the work undertaken by OOSA and, in particular, by its Director, Dr. Camacho, when it comes to organizing the current session of the Legal Subcommittee.

COPUOS activities and, in particular, the activities of the Legal Subcommittee, are marked this year by two particular important anniversaries, that is the fiftieth anniversary of the launch of the first artificial satellite and the resulting beginning of the space era and the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Outer Space Treaty, which is a cornerstone of international space law. Since then, many advances have been achieved by humanity, thanks to this peaceful use of outer space and, what is even more extraordinary, are the opportunities that are opening up in this area every day. Unfortunately, this promising picture is overshadowed by the increasing tendency towards the militarization of space and, in particular, attempts by some powers to bring the arms race to this province, although, there have been so many conflicts on our planet as a result. I would like to fully to endorse what was said in the final declaration, adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, which took place in Havana, in September last year and I would like to quote, "the Heads of State and Government have recognized the common interest for all humanity of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and underscored the prevention of the arms race in outer space, would remove a grave danger for peace and security for the international community. They also underlined the vital importance of strict compliance with existing agreements on arms limitation and disarmament in the area of outer space, including bilateral agreements, as well as, the current legal regime with regard to the use of outer space. They also underlined the urgent need to begin substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament, to prevent an arms race in outer space" end of quotation. In this regard, my delegation considers that COPUOS must play a special role by its contribution to the promotion and diffusion of the peaceful use of outer space, as well as, the contribution that it is making, and must continue to make, to consolidate and hone the ethical principles and the legal instruments which ensure the absolutely peaceful, fair and non-discriminatory use of all space applications. This being a matter which should be promoted, in particular, in the Legal Subcommittee. My delegation agrees with the criterion that the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space constitute a major legal basis for the development of peaceful space activities and here Cuba is party to four of the United Nations treaties I just

mentioned. At the same time, we share the opinion of other delegations, that this legal framework is insufficient, chiefly because it does not ensure the prohibition of an arms race in space. The analysis in this Subcommittee of alternatives, in order to bolster space legislation and in particular, proposals clearly to prohibit the use of arms of any kind in space, it is by no means a theoretical exercise, as some delegations have tried to say, quite the opposite, it is a practical, in fact vital, step in order to ensure the survival of humanity.

Without going into all the aspects of our agenda and, given the fact that, we will have an opportunity to address particular agenda items as we go along, my delegation will nevertheless like to underline some criteria of the various aspects here that we consider to be particularly important.

Firstly, I should like to underline the particular importance that we attach to the question of the definition of outer space. The current lack of definition is no assistance to security and confidence in the peaceful use of space and therefore we feel this should be resolved, as quickly as possible. In this regard, we hope that the constructive proposals will be achieved in discussions in the working groups that have been set up to deal with these issues.

Another vital issue is that of the geostationary orbit. This is a limited natural resource, it is *sui generis* in its nature and it is evermore exposed to saturation, and its use must be based on the principle of rational and fair access for all States, taking into account, the particular needs of the developing countries. This is an issue which has not been totally resolved and it therefore needs to continue to be tackled as a priority by this Subcommittee.

Finally, on the protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on matters specific to space assets, my delegation would like to stress the fact that analyses being done in this regard, the principles and treaties of international public law must always prevail over agreements on private international law. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to thank the distinguished representative of Cuba for his statement and this brings us to the end of item 3 of our agenda and I would like to break for 60 seconds.

Delegates, we are now going to continue our consideration of agenda item 4 and I recognize Nigeria under this agenda item.

Mr. R. BOROFFICE (Nigeria): Nigeria wishes to express a firm commitment towards securing universal adherence of States to the United Nations treaties on space law. It is worthy, that at the inception of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, one of its first achievements was the development and adoption of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies. This year, 2007, marks the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of this landmark treaty. At present, Nigeria is party to three of the additional four space law treaties _____ (*inaudible*) 1967 Outer Space Treaty, in respect of which, we are at an advanced stage of acceding to the fourth treaty in the form of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

In this new millennium, the Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of which, 15 member States are African, is at a very important stage in its work and it is noted that Nigeria _____ (*inaudible*) Africa's _____ (*inaudible*), development efforts must be accompanied by proactive participation, as well as, a demonstrated interest in the development of space law, not only through COPUOS, but also within the legal institutions of African States. Nigeria demonstrated its commitment to promoting the existing United Nations treaties on space law, by co-hosting the fourth of a series of United Nations space law workshops, as well as, the first African Space Leadership Conference on space science and technology for sustainable development, through which a call was made to African States, to ratify or accede to the United Nations space law treaties. Our call was reiterated more recently at the African Regional Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology at its meeting held in Addis Ababa, January 2007.

My delegation is convinced, that the provisions set forth in the affirmation of multilateral treaties, create a number of obligations which Nigeria, like other States, seek to strengthen and perfect at the domestic level, through national legislation and our conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes. We note that _____ (*inaudible*) in the manner by which they choose to implement their international obligations and we also recognize the need for harmonization of domestic legislation, based upon principles and rules that are continued to be defined at the international level. We therefore reiterate our conviction, that though the space law treaties and resolutions provided minimum framework for the conduct of space activities, there is a need to expand our understanding of the scope, content and application of space law rules. My delegation, therefore, looks

forward to the Subcommittee's discussion of the working paper entitled, questionnaire on possible options for future development of international space law, including the discussions regarding the _____ (*inaudible*) Convention of Space Law. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria for his statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Turkey.

Mr. A. DEMIROK (Turkey): Thank you. We are confident that, under your able leadership this Subcommittee will have successful deliberations on its agenda items.

The promotion of space law is gaining in importance for the global community in tandem with technological developments in this field and, with the significant interest in space activities in recent years. We believe, universal adherence to the United Nations treaties and principles is essential for peaceful uses of space. Turkey has already ratified the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention whereas, parliamentary process for the ratification of the Moon Treaty is still underway. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Turkey. I now recognize the distinguished representative of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. X. MA (People's Republic of China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you. I would like to start off by celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty, known as the space Magna Carta. The Space Treaty established for the first time in the form of an international treaty, the basic legal principles and norms which the international community must abide by when conducting space activities. That Treaty lay a solid foundation and provided a framework for a space law.

The space law as _____ (*inaudible*) by the five United Nations space treaties, supplemented by the five major General Assembly declarations of principles, has played a positive and effective role in maintaining order in outer space and regulating space activities and applications. COPUOS has made important contributions to the codification and development of space law, as well as, to promoting the implementation and application of space law. However, forty years after the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty, rapid advances in space

technology and constant development of space activities pose new challenges to a space law, for instance, on issues on how to regulate commercial and private space activities, how to prevent the deployment of weapons in an arms race in outer space and how to prevent outer space pollution and achieve sustainable development in outer space. The existing relevant outer space treaties are found lacking. My delegation is of the view, that to address problems in space legislation, one can on the one hand, supplement and perfect the existing relevant space treaties, without undermining the basic principles of the outer space treaties and on the other, one can explore how general international law can apply to the space area, in accordance with the principle of the space treaties, that the exploration and use of outer space should be guided by international law so as to provide a legal basis for space activities.

In conclusion, our delegation wishes this session of the Legal Subcommittee every success.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to thank the distinguished representative of China for that statement and I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Bulgaria.

Mr. D. TCHAKAROV (Bulgaria): First of all allow me to wish you a very fruitful work as Chairman of the forty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee. The Bulgarian legal framework on the relations arising from the peaceful uses of outer space, is laid down by the provisions of international space law and the domestic law of the Republic of Bulgaria. In this regard, Bulgaria is a party to the following fundamental treaties on outer space; Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, in force in Bulgaria from 10 October 1967; Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, in force in Bulgaria from 14 April 1969; Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, in force in Bulgaria from 1 September 1972; Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, in force in Bulgaria from 15 September 1976.

According to article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, an international treaty which has been ratified according to procedures established by the Constitution, is a part of internal domestic law. Any such treaty takes priority over any conflicting standards of domestic legislation. Therefore, the international space treaties to which the Republic of

Bulgaria is a party, are part of the domestic legal framework on this subject matter. The domestic legal framework governing the matters of space research is regulated by Council of Ministers decree 462 of 1997, on the establishment of the Interagency Commission on Space Research. The Commission is composed of representatives of the State Agency for Information Technology and Communications, the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry for Environment and Water and other governmental bodies. Bulgarian law allows _____ (*inaudible*) institutes and representatives for profit and non-profit legal entities, who are not members of the Interagency Commission but show interest in its work, to participate in its meetings. The InterAgency Commission on Space Research reports directly to the Government and is an advisory body for the conduct of the State policy in the framework of space research. The key policies of the Commission include, draft international programme for space research and applied activities and _____ (*inaudible*) before the Council of Ministers for approval, exercising control over the implementation of national programmes, coordinating the participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the international organizations and in international space programmes. The involvement of such a broad range of institutions enable the conduct of _____ (*inaudible*) analysis upon development of an adequate Bulgarian policy, in the sphere of space research for peaceful purposes and in the sphere of the implementation of the United Nations treaties on outer space, to which Bulgaria is a part. Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Bulgaria for his statement. Before we go on, in accordance with our working methods, I would like to stimulate some debate on the issues that we have just dealt with.

We have heard some excellent presentations, for instance, Ecuador talked about the development of space law as part of social development and there is, indeed, a link between these questions of space technology and the implementation of the millennium development goals. Italy talked about biotechnology, satellite functions and biodiversity. Personally speaking, talking about biotechnology, we are talking about a very up-to-date issue which could underline future legislation. We heard about the La Sapienza University in Rome, which its very name suggests, is full of wise people and here too, we could think about a network of all those institutions that teach space law. France talked about space debris, the register and other

such issues and has referred to a discussion of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Burkina Faso made an important contribution to this session and it is really significant, something that goes through all of the statements, the need to make sure that space activities in general should be used for the benefit of promoting sustainable development. This, with regard, to item 3. Ukraine mentioned an important meeting organized in Kyiv, in terms of promoting knowledge and awareness of outer space law and one, the public believed, this is an excellent initiative and with regard to the various intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations this is to be upheld. Cuba emphasized the importance of the subject matter before us to the United Nations in general. It spoke as a member of the United Nations and also as a country that has a specific weight and a specific contribution to make to the matter. The UNIDROIT effort was mentioned and the need to make sure that international public law in general, should be in a more explicit and more transparent way, integrated within any specific outer space legal instruments. This is not a kind of soft law, as they say, this is part and parcel of the international law and international legal regime and should be considered as such. Nigeria mentioned the need to make progress on all treaties and also referred to the importance of sustainable development. For China, this is an important subject, as it is for a number of delegations and we see these links, we see this truly pervasive and all important reference, either implicit or explicit, to sustainable development and the need to connect any development of outer space law to those practical purposes. Bulgaria referred to the process leading up to the ratification of outer space treaties and also emphasized the importance of sustainable development.

Any comments with regard to the matters raised? This is what an exchange of views is about, to compare juxtapose positions, exchange of opinions, comments on every aspect of international space law and legal norms and standards being currently developed by the international community. I am opening the floor. Silence probably means acceptance. The distinguished representative of South Africa has the floor.

Ms. J. SCHNEEBERGER (South Africa): We still accept but we will not necessarily be silent. In relation to the general exchange of views and picking up on something read by the distinguished delegate of Ukraine, distinguished delegate of Burkina Faso and many others, is the issue of sustainable development and capacity-building. We have found the symposium of the last two days exceptionally useful and, like the distinguished delegate of Ukraine, we think it might be

useful to have that as a standing agenda item on the agenda of the Subcommittee. In this regard, many delegates may recall that the United Nations Sixth Committee, in the 1990s, established a decade of international law and the aim for that decade was to promote international law. As a direct result of that decade of international law, in South Africa we had a series of symposia, as well as, interaction between the various academics and universities, the practitioners of international law, and international law then became a compulsory subject in all South African universities teaching international law. We are not necessarily suggesting a decade of international law but in view of the fact, that this is the fiftieth anniversary of the start of the space age, as well as, the fortieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty, is that perhaps that is something that we could consider further in order to promote space law generally, as well as, linking it to the issue of sustainable development and capacity-building.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much distinguished representative of South Africa. This is really extremely interesting what you have just said and I believe that this is something that we should take up in all seriousness. Linking international space law and making international law a part of curricula, is something that is worthy of very serious consideration. The reference you made to the Sixth Committee's decision on the decade of international law, this is also something that we should bear in mind, that lofty, that august body, could actually consider more specifically international space law. I think that would be a good thing and, even if the recommendations that come out are non-binding, they should be taken in all seriousness by the international community.

A couple of practical considerations come to mind. We believe that we could ask Professor Kopal, as part of informal consultations, to consider this. Tomorrow, we have such informal consultations planned, I do not remember the room number but we could find out. Maybe that informal group could think of raising an appeal to the international community, to be submitted to the plenary session of this Committee, and also on the matter of linking international space law and space activities to sustainable development. I have already said that several times, it is an unbreakable link there, it is something that needs to be in the focus of the international community's attention and it is up to us to look at all legal aspects of that relationship. After all, we are the masters of our own agenda, we decide which legal aspects are of paramount importance and that is certainly one of them and there will be lawyers who will correct me if I am

wrong, but I do think that there are certain documents already on the table, there is a document adopted in Stockholm and others. I am going to ask the representative of South Africa, to be so kind as to also pursue this discussion within the framework of informal consultations that Professor Kopal is going to preside over.

Next year we should again have a symposium of the type that we had here, over two, almost full afternoons and, this next symposium should focus in a very clear and precise way, on the capacity-building opportunities, on scholarships, on grants, on financial assistance, that can be offered to representatives of various countries, specifically developing countries interested in outer space activities to enable them to benefit from those workshops. I did not hear a lot, in terms of such specific practical information, over the past few days and I would really like to know, what are the real opportunities for students or interns of post-graduates from developing countries to take part in these training and capacity-building events. When I say capacities or capabilities, I am not talking about intellectual capacity or capability, I am talking about very practical, very material matters, financial matters.

Any further comments? No further requests and again, I believe silence means acceptance of what has just been said. Moving on to our consideration of agenda item 5. On item 5, I do not have any member States on the speakers list, but I do have observers and it is my pleasure to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Intersputnik who is a lady.

Ms. V. STOVBOUN (Intersputnik): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank you and the Committee, for inviting our organization to participate in this session of the Legal Subcommittee and for giving the floor for a presentation.

I will touch upon three main issues of Intersputnik recent developments. First accession of new member countries. Second, formation and functioning of the Operations Committee. Third, step-by-step privatization process.

First issue, new members of Intersputnik. On 3 September 2004, the Intersputnik Board received the official statement of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to _____ (*inaudible*) that it shares the goals and principles of activity of the Organization and assumes the obligations arising out of the agreement of the establishment of the Intersputnik. Accordingly, on 6 September 2004, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, being the depository of the above agreement, received the instrument of accession

of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the said agreement. As from the above date, the governments of 25 countries are members of Intersputnik.

Second issue, formation and functioning of the Operations Committee. In April 2005, the Operations Committee of Intersputnik was established and held its first meeting in Bangalore, India. The Intersputnik Board announced the following composition of the Operations Committee: Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Republican Unitary Telecommunications Enterprise, BELTELECOM, Republic of Belarus; State Agency for Information, Technology and Communications, Republic of Bulgaria; Bulgarian Telecommunications Company, Republic of Bulgaria; Viet Nam Posts and Telecommunications Company; KB Impuls, Germany; Department of Space of the Government of the Republic of India; Department of Telecommunications of the Government of the Republic of India; Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Korean Democratic People's Republic; Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic; Cuban Telecommunications Company ETECSA; Information and Communications Technology Authority of Mongolia; Telekomunikacja Polska; Russian Satellite Communications Company; Syrian Telecommunications Establishment; Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Tajikistan; Ukrkosmos State Company, Ukraine; and, Ministry of Informatics of the Czech Republic.

Since April 2005, the Operations Committee held four meetings and took over all the issues of the day-to-day activities of the Organization and overall the financial issues. On 27 November 2006, the parliament of Romania passed an act on the accession to the protocol and amendments to the agreement on the establishment of Intersputnik. Thus, Romania became the 19th member of the Organization that approved the protocol and amendments. The procedure of appointing the National Radio Communications Company of Romania as an Intersputnik signatory _____ (*inaudible*) agreement is about to be completed.

Third issue, phase-by-phase privatization of the Organization. The strategic goal of Intersputnik's reorganization, is to make the Organization private, phase-by-phase. This objective was several times confirmed by the Intersputnik board and approved by the Operations Committee, starting from its first meeting in April 2005. The phase-by-phase privatization of the Organization is currently embodied in the establishment of a group of companies that take

care of the bulk of Intersputnik's core business. Based on the resolution of the first meeting of the Operations Committee in December 2005, Intersputnik announced the establishment of its subsidiary, Intersputnik Holding Ltd., that would solve the purpose of business diversification. In the first quarter of 2006, Intersputnik Holding bought 100 per cent interest in the Russian operator Isatel, that became another company in the group of Intersputnik subsidiaries. Today, both companies are profitable and do business in various countries, while focussing on business development in the Intersputnik member countries according to Intersputnik's strategic goals. Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Intersputnik, a very important organization that pursues a comprehensive array of activities, in terms of space race telecommunications. The distinguished representative of the European Space Agency, you have the floor

Mr. F. RIEMANN (European Space Agency): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am grateful for this opportunity to submit to the Legal Subcommittee, a summary report on the activities of the European Space Agency, relating to space law in 2006. Of course, ESA continued to be represented as an observer at the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS and at its working groups. Furthermore, representatives of ESA's legal department continued to lecture extensively, *inter alia*, at the regular International Space University and summer session programme. At the master's degree programme of the University... [*rest of paragraph spoken in French without interpretation*].

Lectures and presentations focused, in particular, on the legal implications of the following topics, satellite navigation, launching policies, topology and practice of international space agreements, international and European space institutions, with a special emphasis on institutional aspects of European space activities, commercial activities in space and the legal aspect of space debris. Representatives of ESA also continued to publish legal studies on various aspects of space law, such as, protecting intellectual property rights in space activities and the legal aspects of space debris. Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the European Space Agency. I have two comments, one, I would like to thank all countries and organizations and I am doing that on behalf of all Latin

American countries. I would like to thank the European Space Agency for extraordinary cooperation and assistance in all our work and, particularly, the fifth most recent Space Conference of the Americas. It was an excellent, very productive event and we are grateful for the active, virtual but important, participation of your Organization. It was evidence of the cooperation that is ongoing between continents and between organizations on a very solid footing. This Conference has provided a further impetus to this cooperation again, congratulations and thank you.

It seems that not everything has been understood in the English version. To avoid any misunderstanding, once again, I would like to thank the European Space Agency for its cooperation, it has always taken an excellent part in preparing Space Conferences of the Americas, particularly the most recent one, the fifth, held in Quito and I would like to transmit to Mauricio Fea, our congratulations and our thanks. The representative of Ecuador has the floor.

Ms. R. VÁSQUEZ DE MESSMER (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The European Space Agency is a body that has played a key role in the organization of the Space Conferences of the Americas and I too, would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank this body and its leaders. We need to continue this exchange of information and this type of cooperation, it is very important. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Ecuador and, with this, we seem to have come to the end of the agenda items that we planned to discuss this morning. At this point, I just wanted to let you know, that we will meet again promptly at 3 p.m. At that time, we will continue consideration of agenda item 4, as well, we will continue our discussion of agenda item 5 and the Working Group on item 4 under the chairmanship of our distinguished friend, Professor Cassapoglou, this will also meet. This session is adjourned.

The meeting closed at 12:24 p.m.