

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

Unedited transcript

757th Meeting

Friday, 30 March 2007, 3 p.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. R. González (Chile)

The meeting was called to order at 3.07 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Good afternoon, distinguished delegates, I call to order this 757th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee. This afternoon, we will continue and then suspend our consideration of agenda item 6(a) and 6(b). We will also consider our consideration of agenda item 7, nuclear power sources and begin consideration of agenda item 9, practice in registering space objects. The Working Group on practice in registering space objects, will hold its first meeting, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany. Before I proceed, I would like to inform delegates of the request for observer status for the Committee, made by the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing, which was distributed to you as Conference Room Paper 3 and I personally assume, this will be accepted, given past practice and I am sure it will make a fine contribution as an observer to this Committee.

It is so decided.

Let us open up the issue, definition and delimitation of outer space. I have no speakers for this agenda item. Does any delegation feel that it is especially keen to make some sort of statement on this item? We work from Monday to Friday up until 6 p.m. so I am certainly ready to listen to anything you have to say, I would be very happy to do so. Nobody wants to make me happy! So be it. There were subitems (a) and (b) under 6. On 6(b), did any delegation wish to take the floor? Nobody.

Let us move on to item 7, nuclear power sources, I have no speakers on the list.

On item 6(b), we have now concluded our consideration of the item, that is on the geostationary orbit. Item 7 remains open until Monday morning.

Let us move on to item 9. I would like us to begin our consideration of this item, practice in registering space objects. The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Japan, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Y. KATO (Japan): On behalf of the Japanese delegation I have the honour to present Japan's opinion on the draft recommendations on the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects. I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the efforts made by all experts who participated in the consultations and contributed to the discussion to the draft recommendations. Japan also contributed to the activities and at creating the draft recommendations, to this end, we support the activities of the Working Group _____ (*inaudible*) the general outlines of the draft recommendations, revised during the intersessional consultations in January and to be proposed by the Working Group _____ (*inaudible*). However, we would like to point out that, we might have difficulties providing information on some items of the present draft recommendations due to technical _____ (*inaudible*). These items can be found in the report of the Working Group attached as annex III of the last year's Legal Subcommittee report A/AC.105/871. Therefore, we would like to discuss these issues, such as, provisions of the date of decay or re-entry, separate registration of the launch vehicle and

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parts thereof and each of the satellites _____ (*inaudible*) during the working group. Japan will continue making efforts and at reaching the best conclusion of this agenda item.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Japan. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

Mr. M. SIMONOFF (United States of America): My delegation is pleased to address the Subcommittee on the question of the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects under the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. The Subcommittee is now in the fourth and final year of its workplan on this topic, the United States was pleased to join with other members of the Subcommittee in originally proposing this workplan. As we have stated previously, the United States believes that this Subcommittee can play a useful role in promoting adherence to the Registration Convention, with respect to registration of space objects. Since the establishment of the United Nations Register for Space Objects, activities in space have dramatically increased and changed in nature to including increasing commercial activities. We are pleased with the progress that has been made on this agenda item and think that the practical suggestions that have been developed will be beneficial to all nations. We look forward to finalizing the proposed text of a possible United Nations General Assembly resolution on this issue, during this session. We would like to thank Germany, in particular, for hosting the intersessional meeting in Berlin, in January of this year, it allowed us to make significant progress towards completing our work and, of course, we wish to express our deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Working Group, Kai-Uwe Schrogl, for his outstanding leadership and hard work.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the United States. As Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, I feel especially gratified by that seminar rest assured, and I did not yet have time to have the invitation to an issue, which was of special interest to the Legal Subcommittee. Let us now, since I have no further speakers under this item. Does any other delegation wish to speak? Distinguished representative of Greece, you have the floor.

Mr. Vassilios CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): I was not here at the start but some text of a resolution was referred to, pertaining to the results. First of all, that text has to be distributed

so that we can discuss it. We have not been warned and I certainly did not get it in my pigeon hole, at least up until quarter of an hour ago. If it has been distributed in the last 15 minutes then may be so, but in 15 minutes, it is just not possible, to study a text of a resolution, at least not a proposed resolution. So perhaps then, we also need to be extra wary from an institutional point of view, when it comes to producing too many resolutions because the General Assembly does a colossal job, an extremely important job, so we need to be extremely cautious with our method of work, with respect to resolutions for an issue that could be tackled differently, to disseminating a resolution on the matter.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Greece. Just two points. The draft resolution, the text was distributed on the first day of the meeting, so it should be available to delegates ever since the start of the week. My delegation has it, so theoretically it belongs to everybody, that is the first thing. The second thing, is that in order to nourish a debate, I would suggest that this very legitimate concern of yours, be raised in the context of the working group's discussions. I do press that point, the text was circulated a week ago, so thank you very much for your understanding. We will now move on within plenary, in considering this item on Monday morning at 10 a.m. sharp. We will now adjourn this plenary meeting of the Subcommittee in order to allow the Working Group on practice, chaired by Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany, to hold its first meeting. Not only do I hope we will conclude our consideration of item 7 on Monday morning, I say that we will conclude that item on Monday morning. This is the only way forward and nuclear power sources has been a very successful issue for debate so far, we have had some very good proposals, some good consideration of them, so I would invite delegations to allow us to conclude agenda item 7 on Monday and I would now like to entrust the meeting to Kai-Uwe Schrogl, given that this meeting needs to be over by Thursday at 12 noon not a minute later for religious reasons. In the United Nations, they have had a great idea in New York of having meetings during the Holy Week but I cannot go on chairing the meeting and my religious observance prevents me from doing that after Thursday, so if somebody wants to continue Thursday afternoon then we will be looking for someone who is keen enough to chair the meeting. All the items are interesting and I hope we can conclude them by Thursday. We will take up item 9 on Monday and now the Working Group will be meeting, it will have its second and last meeting on Monday as well, in principle. I am not sure but I understand that to be the case for that Working Group, at least that is according to the established schedule, between 2 and 3 p.m. on

Monday and this is very important. I must inform delegates, there will be a second session of informal consultations, which were already interesting yesterday. The informal consultations conducted by Professor Kopal for the very rich legal debate and there is a whole host of interesting set of issues for future consideration, so that will be a second round of

informal consultations, in C0713, on new agenda items chaired by Professor Kopal. Could I now ask the Working Group on item 9, its chairman to come forward to chair the meeting. The meeting is adjourned until Monday.

The meeting closed at 3.22 p.m.