

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

Unedited transcript

758th Meeting

Monday, 2 April 2007, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. R. González (Chile)

The meeting was called to order at 10.04 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Good morning, distinguished delegates. I call to order the 758th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee. I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of the International Astronautical Federation, who has an important announcement to make. You have the floor.

Ms. R. RAMÍREZ DE ARELLANO (International Astronautical Federation) (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is always a pleasure to greet you, so please receive fraternal greetings from James Zimmerman as well, the President of the International Astronautical Federation and I thank you in advance for this opportunity to refer to an item of the agenda, which was discussed last week. I am going to read the text in English, which is the working language of the International Astronautical Federation.

On behalf of the member organizations and voluntary experts of the International Astronautical Federation, I am pleased to have the opportunity to make some brief remarks before the Legal Subcommittee. The IAF is an intergovernmental organization whose members include space agencies, companies, universities and professional societies. We are global in character, with member organizations located in most of the countries participating in this Committee. Our Federation promotes public awareness and appreciation of space activities worldwide. We do this by organizing annual conferences, _____ (*inaudible*) throughout the world, our next congress will be held from 24-28 September of this year, in Hyderabad, India. We are also looking forward

to holding international astronautical congresses in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2008 and in Daejeon, Korea, in 2009.

Exchanging of information of space programme development and plans. The Federation was established to connect those interested in space from all around the world. We promote the interaction using our new website, that provides networking capabilities for our technical experts.

Development of a highly motivated international knowledgeable workforce. The Federation actively encourages the participation of those who will lead space activities in the coming decades. Since 1999, we have welcomed the participation of students in our annual congresses. In 2006, we inaugurated a new joint professional programme that introduces young people working on space matters to our last congress.

Recognition of achievements in space activities. In close collaboration with our member societies, the Federation presents awards to individuals who distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence in astronautics and international collaboration.

Preservation of information on global space development. The Federation maintains an online archive, containing all the papers presented during each international astronautical congress. We are in the process of expanding this digital archive, begun in 2003, to include the papers presented in previous years, dating back to 1963. _____ (*inaudible*) digital archive as a viable resource for the global space community.

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.



Increased use by developing countries of a space system for human development. The Federation and its member organizations, appreciate potential benefits of space data and space technologies for developing countries. Our Federation has actively supported a series of workshops for developing countries' representatives, organized together with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. In 2007, IAF and United Nations workshop, will be held at the International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, India. The workshop in Hyderabad would consider the use of space technologies for improving food security. The Federation is also an active participant in the development of space law and has actively participated through the International Institute of Space Law, IISL, in different meetings and symposiums carried out as a part of the meeting of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the International Astronautical Federation.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you, distinguished representative of the International Astronautical Federation. I wish to make three comments or you made three comments, which I think are very valuable. First of all, the fact that the Federation is dealing with human development issues, bringing about a synergy as the distinguished representative of Colombia mentioned, a very important synergy between political issues and legal and scientific ones. It is also gratifying that the workshop or seminar taking place in India, will be related to food security, which is a crucial issue these days, as has been borne out in various reports on human development from UNDP. We also welcome your participation in international space law, so I congratulate you for your contribution. Before moving into the regular affairs of the day's business I would like to give the floor to the representative of Egypt, who has an interesting contribution to make.

Mr. M. MAHMOUD (Egypt) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you for availing me of this opportunity to speak about item 3 of the agenda. The Egyptian delegation views, with great appreciation, the results of the Technical Subcommittee concerning space debris and this is represented in the space debris mitigation guidelines. The Egyptian delegation deems that, space debris is of particular importance for Egypt and for the international community at large because it represents dangers which threaten the freedom of exploring and using outer space and space objects, as well as, the earth and space environment. Hence, it is necessary for COPUOS to accord this matter due attention. Having studied the guidelines which have been achieved by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we find that they are basically related

to reducing the results of future space activities, such as, space debris and, based on this conclusion, these guidelines include the following, guidelines for mitigating space debris. We must look at the coming principles concerning the various planning of space missions, as well as, the orbits of launch vehicles and their design and manufacture, their operation, launching the mission and disposal.

[*following text spoken in English*] The following guidelines should be considered for the mission, planning, design, manufacture and operation _____ (*inaudible*) and launch vehicle orbital state.

[*following text interpreted from Arabic*] These guiding principles deal with future missions in space and the question of space debris is a matter that has two aspects. One, how to dispose of existing space debris in orbit and secondly, to reduce space debris resulting from future missions, as far as possible, and since these principles relate to the second aspect and not the first, which is represented by the ways and means of disposing of existing space debris in space. The Egyptian delegation reaffirms the need, to give special attention to ways and means of disposing of existing space debris in orbit, through undertaking studies and adoption of recommendations. The Egyptian delegation reaffirms the need to take into account the following, to strive to take measures aiming at removing space debris which exists at present in orbit. The polluter pays, that is, he who has undertaken activities which result in certain benefits should shoulder the results of his activities in orbit and, this would lead countries whose activities have resulted in such space debris, to shoulder their responsibility concerning the need to remove such debris and commensurate with their activities.

Secondly, the measures which may be adopted, should not lead to measures which aim at removing existing space debris in space or reducing any possible space debris in the future. The adoption of such measures should not lead to placing new obstacles or restrictions, either financial or technical, which would impede the efforts of the developing countries in exercising their right to explore and utilize outer space and to ensure free and fair access to outer space.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt and since we have to make headway on these items, I will just make a very brief comment pertaining to a statement, which was made by the Chair at the start of this session, which you also broached in your statement when you referred to common and differentiated responsibility. Thank you for your

contribution and we now move on to the scheduled business for today.

This is the 758th meeting of the Subcommittee and we shall continue and conclude agenda item 7, nuclear power sources. We will then begin consideration of agenda item 8 and we will then continue consideration of agenda item 9, practice in registering space objects. The Working Group on practice in registering space objects, will hold a meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany. Before I proceed, I would like to remind delegates, that the second informal consultations, conducted by Professor Vladimir Kopal, on new agenda items will be held today from 2 to 3 p.m. in C0713. I would also like to make a final reminder about today's deadline for providing the Secretariat with any comments or corrections on Conference Room Paper 2, entitled provisional list of participants. Let us move on to nuclear power sources, I have no speakers on this list for this item. Can I ask if there is any delegation wishing to speak on this item? It would be most welcome. I see no speakers. We have concluded our consideration of the item on nuclear power sources. Let us now move on to the UNIDROIT item. First of all, I would like to ask if any of the States present, wishes to speak on this item. The distinguished representative of Germany has the floor.

Ms. V. GRÄFIN VON ROEDERN (Germany): Last year Germany actively participated in the consultations regarding the preparation of the space protocol. During the last months, UNIDROIT had deferred the work concerning the space protocol because of the intense work regarding the finalization of the railway protocol. We were pleased to note, that the work concerning the space protocol, will be continued approximately in the middle of 2007. Before finalizing the space protocol, several important questions, such as the identification of the relevant space assets, the safeguarding of the non-interference of this new register, as well as, reservation with regard to public service obligations, have to be solved. Germany will also actively participate in this work in future, especially in order to guarantee a non-conflicting coexistence of the United Nations Register and the space assets.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Germany for your statement. I hope this will stimulate greater debate amongst distinguished members of the Subcommittee because this has been a relatively novel item. It introduces some interesting elements of international private law and it is doubtless what I would call an original item for this Subcommittee to

provide new visions, given all the sectors which constitute this multi-faceted space world, it is not just state authorities involved, there are other authorities too. I have pleasure in giving the floor to the representative of UNIDROIT to make a statement on this item. You have the floor.

Mr. M. STANFORD (UNIDROIT): The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) greatly appreciates the invitation which was received from the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to report to the forty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the developments that have taken place since the last session of the Legal Subcommittee concerning the preliminary draft protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets.

The first news that I bring you today, concerns the adoption and open to signature of the second protocol to the Capetown Convention, that on matters specific to railway rolling stock. This happened in Luxembourg, on 23 February 2007. On that occasion, 4 of the 42 States present, signed the new protocol. These are Gabon, Italy, Luxembourg and Switzerland. A number of other States have signalled that they intend becoming signatories too. The diplomatic conference further decided, that the seat of the future international registry for railway rolling stock should be located in Luxembourg. In the meantime, the Capetown Convention itself and the first protocol thereto on matters specific to aircraft equipment, continued to attract new ratifications and accessions. Since the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, seven new States have become parties to both the Convention and the Aircraft Protocol, these are, Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia and South Africa. The number of States parties to both instruments thus currently stands at 16. A number of other States have signalled they are at an advanced stage with their implementation of the two instruments. In the first ten months of the operation of the International Registry for Aircraft Objects, no fewer than 33,500 interests were registered against 15,000 aircraft, helicopters and engines. The International Registry already accounts for over 50 per cent of the world's commercial aircraft transactions. The International Registry has been available to users for approximately 98 per cent of the time since its entry into operation on 1 March 2006, as against the contractual target of 99.6 per cent. There can be no doubt, that the International Registry for Aircraft Objects has got off to a good start and has earned wide acceptance in the user community. Furthermore, it is

clear that the experience gained in establishing this registry will greatly facilitate the work that needs to be done on developing the future international registry for space assets and lower the cost involved. With the Capetown Convention and Aircraft Protocol now well and truly in force and the Luxembourg Protocol successfully adopted, UNIDROIT plans to push ahead expeditiously, with a view to the timeliest completion of work on the development of the other protocol to the Capetown Convention, this time on matters specific to space assets.

The General Assembly of UNIDROIT member States at its fifty-ninth session, held on 1 December 2005, assigned this project priority status in the context of the UNIDROIT work programme for the 2006-2008 triennium. The fact that UNIDROIT Committee of Governmental Experts spearheading this project has not met since October 2004, is due to a number of reasons, not least, the priority that has necessarily had to be given to bringing first the Capetown Convention and secondly, the Convention on Aircraft Objects into force and completing work on the rail protocol. There has also been a number of critical intersessional assignments to complete, foremost among these, was the need for participating governments and the Space Working Group, to provide UNIDROIT Secretariat with information as to which services should be considered as public services in their countries for the purposes of article 16, paragraph 3, of the preliminary draft protocol and how these services were protected in their countries at present. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a report on the subject in the light of the responses of governments and the Space Working Group in time for the next session of the Committee.

The second clear assignment consisted in the need for the Subcommittee set out to develop proposals relating to the future of international registration system, to report back to the committee in time for its next session. The other key assignment, consisted in the preparation of a revised proposal for the extension of the application of the Capetown Convention to debtors rights and relative rights under the future space protocol. There was also another fundamental condition needing to be fulfilled before the Committee of Governmental Experts could be reconvened and this was the need for the Space Working Group, the body created by UNIDROIT, to channel the expertise of the international commercial space and financial communities into the intergovernmental consultation process, to secure the additional support from these communities needed for it to be in a position to respond to the frequent and significant calls on its expertise, both during sessions of the Committee of

Governmental Experts and in intersessional assignments. There can be no doubt in UNIDROIT's mind, that the Space Working Group has a crucial role to play in the remaining stages of the work if we are to come out with a commercially viable and therefore useful end-product.

With a view to getting the process moving again, on 24 April last, we organized a one-day government industry forum in London, reflecting what I have just said about the importance of securing new support for the Space Working Group. The forum was addressed, not only to certain leading governments involved in the intergovernmental consultation process, but also to the international commercial space and financial communities. Significant, therefore, was the fact, that the Royal Bank of Scotland itself kindly agreed to host the event. The forum proved a great success, in particular, attracting a broad range of attendance from the international commercial space and financial communities. It showed that there were different ways in which these could assist the efforts of the Space Working Group. While not everyone for instance, was prepared to go as providing funding for the Space Working Group, there was a general willingness to contribute expertise and comments and, where necessary, to attend meetings called to advance work on the preliminary draft protocol. At the same time, though, it was made abundantly clear, that such support was conditional on the project being completed as expeditiously as possible after taking stock of the situation, identifying the key assignments needing to be completed, the forum concluded that these would need to be completed and their results considered by a further round of intersessional discussions, before the committee could be reconvened. Since the forum, the UNIDROIT Secretariat has been active in working with the representatives of the international, commercial space and financial communities present in London, to see how best they could participate in the work ahead and in seeking to move work forward on the different key assignments identified at the forum. A number of the new parties have thus committed to support the Space Working Group in the work ahead and one of the key tasks entrusted to the Space Working Group after the second session of governmental experts, namely, the preparation of a revised proposal for the extension of the application of the convention to debtors rights and relative rights under the future space protocol has been accomplished.

Further, to complete the responses from governments to the aforementioned Secretariat questionnaire on public service, the Secretariat sent out a further questionnaire among financial institutions and those advising such institutions, seeking their opinion

on the issue. On the basis of the responses we received from both governments and financial institutions to these two questionnaires, we prepared an interim paper on the different options open to the Committee of Governmental Experts on this key question of public service. Given the limited activity by governments on the web forum set up by the International Telecommunication Union to facilitate the work of the Subcommittee entrusted with the task of looking into certain aspects of the future international registration system, the Secretariat sent out a questionnaire, principally among satellite manufacturers, on one of the key questions referred to the Subcommittee, namely, the criteria to be employed for identification of the space assets covered by the future protocol in the future international registry and here again, we prepared an interim paper on the results of this inquiry.

In addition, another of the issues falling to be discussed by the Subcommittee being that of the future international registry for space assets, it is worth noting that in recent months, we have had a number of expressions of interest in acting as registrar of the future international registry. In moving forward, especially with an accelerated timetable for completion in mind, it is clearly important to know, that one of the governments actively involved in the inter-governmental consultation process is sufficiently committed to the preliminary draft protocol, to be prepared to consider hosting a diplomatic conference for adoption of the future draft protocol. Particular significance therefore, attaches to the announcement made by the representative of the government of one UNIDROIT member State, at the December 2006 annual General Assembly session, that his government is currently favourably considering the hosting of the diplomatic conference. In the light of all these positive developments, we believe that the time is now ripe to present the results of all this intersessional endeavour to another special meeting of the leading governments involved in the intergovernmental consultation process, representatives of the international commercial space and financial communities, in particular, with a view to enabling these parties to advise us, on the basis of the intersessional work accomplished, as to the best means of bringing the preliminary draft protocol to timeliest completion. That is why we shall shortly be convening such a meeting in New York, to be held on 19 and 20 June. The meeting is to be hosted by Millbank Tweed Hadley and McCloy, the law firm, Mr. Peter Nesgos, the coordinator of the Space Working Group. A significant guarantee, I would suggest, of the interest being taken in these decisive stages of the process by the international commercial space and financial communities, whose attitude is inevitably going to be pivotal for the practical success, or otherwise, of the

end product of our work. We very much believe that the solid preparation that has been put in over the past ten months, would ensure that this meeting is successful. When I say successful, I mean that we are optimistic that the New York meeting would establish the parameters for thereafter being in a position to reconvene the Committee of Governmental Experts in the autumn, with an accelerated timetable for completion of the space assets protocol.

As in the past, we look forward to thus being able, once again, to work fully with all member States of COPUOS in the finalization of a protocol that, notwithstanding all the difficulties it has presented us with, undoubtedly has the potential to play a major role in unleashing private capital for commercial space activity and, at the same time, to provide the first building block in the international regulation of commercial activities in outer space. As I mentioned last year, the two sessions of the Committee of Governmental Experts held to date, have provided adequate testimony that the desirability of governments coming to such sessions fully briefed on key issues and not, therefore, having to make decisions regarding such issues on the hoof. It is clearly vital for all involved in the intergovernmental consultation process, to engage in direct discussions with one another on key issues, in advance of the next session, so as to ensure the best possible results emerge from that session.

Speaking now for both UNIDROIT and the Space Working Group, permit me therefore, to stress our full availability to engage in such pre-session discussions with governments, in particular, at the forthcoming New York meeting, with a view to ensuring that we make the best possible use of the next session and are thus able to move the process forward to completion as successfully and expeditiously as possible.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of UNIDROIT for his very comprehensive information. He has given us elements which are extremely interesting for the purpose of our debate. Among other things, I noticed that one of the purposes of UNIDROIT is public service, he referred to that specifically, the question of how we could coalesce international public and private legal provisions and bring together the various players involved on the other hand. This notion of public service then needs to be sufficiently clear to avoid confusion in the debate, differences of opinion, so that we produce a good result, from that standpoint it would be a good idea to continue developing these concepts. One very modest suggestion, it is a very good idea for that New York

meeting to be held from 19 June but I would just like to remind the distinguished representative of UNIDROIT, that the COPUOS meeting, which is directly related to what you are discussing, concludes on 16 June here in Vienna, so you could take note of what is adopted at that meeting, so it is just a suggestion that you do take that on board and perhaps we could establish a measure of linkage between the two meetings, that is the meetings you are holding in conjunction with the meetings of the United Nations. Naturally, your suggestions are perfectly sovereign for conferences to be held whenever you want or deem appropriate but from the point of view of efficiency and effectiveness for our work, it would be a good idea to set dates which are compatible with the Committee and its Subcommittee but I do restate my thanks because this has been a very comprehensive presentation on this issue. The distinguished representative of Japan.

Ms. S. AOKI (Japan): Our delegation has been expressing and confirming its support to the continued work of the examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interest in Mobile Equipment. This year again, Japan would like to express its support to continue its work and is confident in seeing substantial progress of the work concerning the future space assets protocol, at the forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, to be held in 2008. Our delegation appreciates the clear and detailed explanation about the unavoidable delay of the work of the UNIDROIT Committee of Governmental Experts, given by the distinguished delegate of Italy, Professor Marchisio last week, under item 3 of the general exchange of views and our delegation is appreciative of the detailed and very precise explanation about the delay, just given by UNIDROIT committee representative Mr. Stanford. At the last session, we were informed by UNIDROIT that nine nations were parties to the Aircraft Protocol, the number increased to 16 a year later. Also the second specific protocol on railway rolling stock was opened for signature last month, which indicates a steady progress of the legal instrument on the _____ (*inaudible*) financing for the promotion of commercial activities. Accordingly, our delegation is optimistic about the adoption of the third and last protocol _____ (*inaudible*) space assets protocol, the next protocol in the near future. Pending the third meeting of the governmental experts to be held in 2007, this Subcommittee could further proceed with the discussion of other _____ (*inaudible*) issues through a consensus-based process. Thus, our delegation would like to reiterate its support to put this agenda item for the next year.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Japan for her statement. The distinguished representative of the Czech Republic has the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): May I recall, that my delegation already in its statement during the general exchange of views, expressed its full satisfaction over the fact that, 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, has been included in the agenda of our Subcommittee this year. I believe that it has been very good that, today, we have had an opportunity to listen to the distinguished observer for UNIDROIT, our colleague, Dr. Martin Stanford. He has been attending our meetings now for many years and always informed us about the progress that was reached within UNIDROIT and contributed also to our important deliberations, that we held in the past, on some particular issues relating to COPUOS and to the United Nations. I also appreciate very much his statement, that he has made today, indeed, it was a full and complete, thorough information and we are very satisfied that the work on the development of the complex of treaties relating to the Capetown Convention, proceeds fairly well. We now have two important protocols, one on the air matters, the other on railway stock matters and it is, of course, our great interest also in the progress of the third protocol, which relates to space assets. I believe that, after a certain break or lull in the process of negotiations on this third protocol, the work on it will continue this year and that it will enable also to successfully complete this work on the space protocol. I believe that due to this visible progress that is in sight before us, we should also keep the agenda item for the agenda of the next session of the Legal Subcommittee, as it has been this year.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic, my good friend, Professor Kopal. Several comments, firstly, two minutes after passing over the Chair to you next year, I can assure you, there will be a lot of work to be done on UNIDROIT and, between now and then, before formerly passing on office to you, there is no doubt that the UNIDROIT issue will be within the purview of this Subcommittee and I am sure it will stay on the agenda because of its extreme importance. I entirely agree with you about the excellent presentation which was made by the representative of UNIDROIT. We have also had other excellent presentations from the representative of the International Astronautical Federation and other distinguished representatives who have spoken. I think there will be a specific paragraph in the report referring

to these presentations, it is usually the case in any event but on this occasion, we should also refer to presentations which have not been made which should have been made, for example, ITU, UNESCO and other international organizations that should have been present. What ITU is doing is directly related to the geostationary orbit and during the debate on the geostationary orbit, distinguished delegates have liked that vision from ITU and has put us in a difficult position. We should stress the interest of the Chair, I certainly put it to you, that at this juncture we should agree to have a paragraph placing special emphasis on the excellent presentations which we have heard. Certainly I made comments but nobody referred to them. A special reference should be made to these presentations because it also helps us to keep these items alive, not just in our minds but also when it comes to content, which is brought to us from delegations and gives us an insight into the thinking on these items. If there is no objection, then there will be a specific paragraph included in the report, by the Secretariat with its customary wisdom.

It is so decided.

Let us now move on to item 9, practice in registering space objects and I have pleasure in giving the floor to the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. A. KERREST (France) (*interpretation from French*): In accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee in 2003, the Working Group led by Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, was asked in 2006 to define shared or common practices and to establish draft recommendations with a view to strengthening accession to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Over the past year, during the forty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee, a non-paper prepared by the Chairman of the Working Group, was distributed among various delegations. At the end of those meetings, the conclusions reached by the Working Group last year are, on the whole, in conformity with the French position. This document has been the subject of informal discussions in which France participated. The draft resolution before us pursues various objectives, in its paragraph 1, it encourages accession and implementation of the Convention by international organizations. France strongly supports these recommendations. With regard to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the objective here is to harmonize the practices of States in this area. In subparagraph 2(a), some of these practices, administrative practices in particular, should pose no difficulty to the various delegations. It should be entirely possible here to achieve greater consistency in the statements made by States. Under paragraph 2(b),

providing additional information as proposed in the draft resolution before us, would make it possible to have more comprehensive information as a result, in particular, information pertaining to all changes in the operation of a satellite could be communicated. Under paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, a recommendation was made for measures to ensure effective registration of space objects, the aim here is to avoid the situation where objects are not registered. A number of space objects, at the moment, are not registered. These recommendations address the existing concern expressed both by States and by international organizations. Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution touches upon the matter of the transfer of ownership in space objects. At present, the practice in that regard is very uneven and unequal in terms of the transfer of ownership of space objects in orbit. The draft resolution pursues the objective of requiring that, after the transfer of ownership, a minimum of information be communicated to the United Nations. Information on such elements as, the lifetime of the satellite and events that could occur within the framework of the operation of a satellite, seems to us absolutely necessary. The French delegation supports the principles enshrined in the draft text of the resolution and will certainly take an active part in the deliberations of the Working Group.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of France and I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. K. CHUNG (Republic of Korea): The Legal Subcommittee will consider and finalize its four-year work on the agenda item on the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects. My delegation, in 2006, reported on Korean legislation practice in accordance with our newly enacted national space law and emphasized, as a member of the Registration Convention, the necessity of strengthening the Registration Convention. My delegation would like to reiterate the importance of achieving the universality of the treaty system and of establishing national implementation system in order to tackle those issues arising from technological development in the increasing participation of the private sector in space activity. In this regard, my delegation notes the working paper prepared and presented to the Subcommittee by the Chairman of the Working Group, Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl. My delegation would like to commend Dr. Schrogl for his excellent work, in particular, during the intersessional meeting held in Berlin, this January. The Republic of Korea was not able to participate in the intersessional meeting but was informed of the progress of the meeting in

_____ (*inaudible*). My delegation believes that meaningful and productive discussion were had at the meeting. The working paper makes particular important recommendations, such as, to regarding the provision of additional information on space objects, transfer of ownership of space objects in orbit, registration by international intergovernmental organizations and a separate registration of launch vehicles and parts thereof and each of the satellites. My delegation is of the view that, these recommendations provide some practical solutions to address the growing complexity of registering space objects arising from the increase in space activities by private entities and intergovernmental organizations. My delegation hopes that the discussion on this item will help to strengthen the implementation of the Registration Convention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea. Does the distinguished representative of the Netherlands wish to speak on this item? You have the floor.

Mr. R. LEFEBER (Netherlands): We are very pleased with the work that has been done intersessionally on this issue and we support a result, in particular, the proposed General Assembly resolution and we would like to commend the Chairman for the work that has been done.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Just before giving the floor to the next speakers, could I ask you, that any statements you make, if it is on a substantive matter for negotiation, reserve it for the working group meeting, otherwise it is going to take time from the working group. There is a lot to be discussed there and if it is not a general statement on this item, then I would request you, both the distinguished representative of Egypt, the representative of the Czech Republic, to reserve your comments, if they are comments, for the Working Group context. If it is a general remark on this item then, of course, I am ready to give you the floor and I ask the same of the representative of Greece. Let us focus the work in the Working Group because that is where we negotiate these issues. I am just making an appeal to you, a request, to display goodwill, unless you wish to make a general statement. Could you agree? I see nodding from the delegate of Egypt, thank you. The representative of Egypt has the floor. What I want to know, is whether you agree that the comments you are going to make now on this item, should be made, kindly, in the Working Group, in order to give it the time it needs to give the Chair, in particular, the time to start a serious process of negotiation on this

issue, because general statements, as the name indicates, are very general. So can I ask Greece, Egypt and the Czech Republic, if they would be ready to await the Working Group meeting to make their statements, in that context, because it is going to meet immediately after I have adjourned. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting. The only thing I am asking, is to give me the opportunity, as Chair of the Subcommittee, out of kindness, to ensure that the substance and content of this issue, which is being stewarded with such energy by the Chair from Germany. If you have substantive issues, to raise them in the Working Group, which was something which was also accepted. I am sorry that you are not deferring to the wishes of the Chair. You have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): I wanted to say something very simple, I asked for the floor right now, right here because we are having an official discussion, whereas within the Working Group that is not the case. Two things, a few words. First, with regard to the procedure, everything that we need to do this year is proceed to conclusions if we can, as to a text, which has nothing to do with any resolution. We are all in agreement that we should continue our work within those guidelines and all of these very important elements that have been submitted to us in this proposal should be part of that work. My question is: is there no objection to proceeding in this way? That is all, I apologize for interrupting you, I just wanted to establish something officially.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): That is exactly what will be decided initially at the start of the Working Group meeting. Let us adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee so that the Working Group on this item we have been discussing, item 9, can hold its second meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany. However, before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon. We will meet at 3 p.m. sharp, preceded that is, by an important meeting to be chaired by Professor Kopal, that is the informal consultations on new agenda items. In the afternoon we will take up item 8, the UNIDROIT related item on which we had an interesting and very stimulating presentation from UNIDROIT and then there is also the Working Group on practice which will be holding its last meeting this afternoon. I hereby adjourn this meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.04 a.m.