

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

Unedited transcript

764th Meeting

Thursday, 5 April 2007, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. R. González (Chile)

The meeting was called to order at 10.06 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Good morning, distinguished delegates, I call to order the 764th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee. This morning we shall continue and conclude the adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee. Before beginning with the report I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Brazil, who wishes to make an announcement.

Mr. J. MONSERRAT FILHO (Brazil) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Chairman, distinguished delegates, may I provide some information on Brazil's plans supported by many countries and adopted in the plenary of COPUOS in July of last year. This is to foster an international effort to create, in all countries, at least in most of them, a national infrastructure so that they may receive, process, analyse and use satellite imagery to benefit their domestic development programmes. There is no need to say it, but satellite data and imagery from space are now essential for the improvement of the living conditions and development of all countries in national policies relating to agriculture, urban planning, rural planning, the control and treatment of water resources, rivers, the coasts, the forests, scientific and technological research and innovation in all fields of knowledge. For that reason, it is so necessary today for all countries of the world to be in a position to receive, process, analyse and use satellite images. It seems to us that this would be more swiftly and better achieved on the basis of a major international cooperation programme which could benefit all countries. Is it fairly straightforward to do? No, it is not. We will have to tackle many difficulties but it is a good and necessary cause for all countries,

whatever their level of development. What we are envisaging is, disseminating as widely as possible, the culture of satellite data use, fostering the establishment of facilities, laboratories and teams in all countries with the competent staff to work on such installations and use the satellite data effectively for national development.

Our plan, adopted in COPUOS, covers three years and beginning this year in June. I would like to invite all delegates to take an active part in this plan and ask them to submit their requests, their ideas, suggestions, in order to carry through this international endeavour which could transform the map of distribution and utilization of satellite imagery on a global scale. This is important also, to encourage many countries to invest directly in space activities and, perhaps, extend the number of participants and parties to space treaties. So we have before us a plan which could be useful and stimulating for all countries. We shall all be bolstering in practice, the principle of the exploration and use of outer space for the specific benefits of all countries.

Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Brazil. Let us now proceed to adopt the first part of the report, which is in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.268/Add.2, which is to do with the UNIDROIT issue and we shall go through this, as is customary, paragraph by paragraph.

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.



Paragraph 1. Comments on paragraph 1?

Adopted.

Paragraph 2, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 3?

Adopted.

Paragraph 4?

Adopted.

Paragraph 5?

Adopted.

Paragraph 6, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 7, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 8, comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 9, any observations?

Adopted.

Paragraph 10?

Adopted.

Paragraph 11?

Adopted.

Paragraph 12?

Adopted.

Paragraph 13, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 14?

Adopted.

Paragraph 15?

Adopted.

Paragraph 16?

Adopted.

Paragraph 17?

Adopted.

Paragraph 18?

Adopted.

Section VIII. Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects

Let us now move on to section VIII, practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects.

I put paragraph 19 to you for your consideration.

Adopted.

Paragraph 20, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 21?

Adopted.

Paragraph 22?

Adopted.

Paragraph 23?

Adopted.

Paragraph 24? Distinguished representative of Brazil.

Mr. J. MONSERRAT FILHO (Brazil) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Can I propose that we add in paragraph 24, Brazil's information to the effect that, we acceded to the Registration Convention last year.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): You are absolutely right. Sorry, Brazil.

Mr. J. MONSERRAT FILHO (Brazil)
(*interpretation from Spanish*): It is the National Registration System which has come online.

Paragraph 34?

Adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Comments on 24?

Paragraph 35?

Adopted.

Adopted.

Paragraph 25?

Paragraph 36?

Adopted.

Adopted.

Paragraph 26, comments?

Paragraph 37?

Adopted.

Adopted.

Paragraph 27, any comments?

Paragraph 38, any comments on paragraph 38, which is just a statement of fact right down to agenda item 11.

Adopted.

Paragraph 38 in its entirety, adopted.

Paragraph 28? The Secretariat will fill in the blanks in this paragraph.

Paragraph 39?

Adopted.

Adopted.

Paragraph 29, any comments?

Paragraph 40?

Adopted.

Adopted.

Paragraph 30, any comments?

Paragraph 41 with its subparagraphs (a) to (f)?

Adopted.

Paragraph 41 in its entirety, adopted.

Paragraph 31, any comments?

Paragraph 42?

Adopted.

Adopted.

Paragraph 32, any comments?

Paragraph 43?

Adopted.

Adopted.

Section IX. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session

Distinguished delegates, we will now take a short break so that you have a chance to take a look at addendum 1, which is in the process of being distributed or it has only just been distributed. Let us suspend for just a few minutes.

Let us now move on to section IX. Proposals for new items. I put paragraph 33 to you for your consideration.

Adoption of addendum 1. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

Adopted.

Distinguished delegates, let us now proceed with our adoption of the report and let us take up addendum 1, Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

I put to you for your consideration paragraph 1 of addendum 1. Any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 2? Here I am going to make a modest proposal, it says, the Subcommittee noted with satisfaction and so on. We also need to acknowledge the merits of the Office in this very important updated document. Thank you.

Paragraph 2 is adopted.

Paragraph 3, (a) to (e)?

Adopted.

Paragraph 4? Distinguished representative of Brazil.

Mr. L. IANSEN DE SANTANA (Brazil): I would like to include in paragraph 4, the ratification by Brazil of the Registration Convention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you and it will be duly done.

Paragraph 4?

Adopted.

Paragraph 5?

Adopted.

Paragraph 6?

Adopted.

Paragraph 7?

Adopted.

Paragraph 8?

Adopted.

Paragraph 9, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 10?

Adopted.

Paragraph 11, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 12?

Adopted.

Paragraph 13, which obviously will be supplemented with filling in of the spaces by the Secretariat.

Paragraph 13 is adopted.

Paragraph 14?

Adopted.

Paragraph 15?

Adopted.

Section IV. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

Let us move on to section IV, information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law. Can we reduce the length of these titles in future? I will not be here but the Chair is going to need extra oxygen to read out titles of this length.

Paragraph 16?

Adopted.

Paragraph 17?

Adopted.

Paragraph 18?

Adopted.

Paragraph 19?

Adopted.

Paragraph 20? I would like to ask the Secretariat a question on paragraph 20. I recall making a statement which was accepted by the Committee, about the need for provision of information on international space law from the International Law Association and I am not sure if that is covered in a

paragraph and, if it is not, then I would like it to be reflected.

Paragraph 20, adopted.

Paragraph 21?

Adopted.

Paragraph 22?

Adopted.

Paragraph 23?

Adopted.

Paragraph 24?

Adopted.

Paragraph 25?

Adopted.

Paragraph 26? The distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): I return, with your permission, to paragraph 24, dealing with the report of the Space Law Committee of the International Law Association and I also refer to your earlier note, which I fully share. It was not only a written report that was submitted here but a very detailed and perfect, I would say, contribution to our discussion, made by the Chairman of the Space Law Committee, Professor Maureen Williams, I believe that it should be also reflected in this particular paragraph 24.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wholeheartedly agree with the proposal from Professor Kopal, therefore, I think this will be incorporated unless anybody is objecting, otherwise it will be lost forever.

It is so adopted.

Paragraph 25, which we had already adopted.

Paragraph 25 adopted.

Paragraph 26?

Adopted.

Paragraph 27, comments? Observations? Thoughts? Dreams? Aspirations?

Adopted.

Paragraph 28?

Adopted.

Paragraph 29?

Adopted.

Paragraph 30?

Adopted.

Paragraph 31?

Adopted.

Section V. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

Which brings us to section V, I am not even going to read the title, basically it is definition and delimitation of the orbit and I put to you consideration of paragraph 32.

Paragraph 32 adopted.

Paragraph 33, comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 33, incidentally, covered all the subparagraphs from (a) to (e).

Paragraph 34? Distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. A. REY-CÓRDOBA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Just a question of form. There is a reference to the orbit being rational, I am not sure that is the right question, rather the view was expressed that access to the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource and it should be used economically, it is not a question of rational, it should be economically used, that is the point, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Well, suddenly, artefacts seem to be thinking more rationally than the human individual, according to this text. If there is no objection, then we will make the appropriate correction to the Spanish text but I would like to give the floor to the representative of Ecuador. Is it on the same paragraph?

Ms. R. VÁSQUEZ DE MESSMER (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In our opinion, it is the use which is rational, in which case it makes sense.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you. With these two comments would we have the text adopted with the necessary adjustments to the Spanish text and all the other official languages of the United Nations?

Paragraph 34 is adopted.

Paragraph 35, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 36?

Adopted.

Paragraph 37?

Adopted.

Paragraph 38? The distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): Just a drafting proposal. In the last line of this particular paragraph, we have “its use should be governed by the provisions of the United Nations treaties on outer space, including ITU regulations”. I would say instead of “including”, “and ITU regulations”, because ITU regulations are not included in the Outer Space Treaty.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Once again, I think Professor Kopal is right and it would certainly make the text more consistent. If there is no objection, we would adopt the text with that minor amendment. I think I am getting nodding from the Austrian delegation and that is a great honour for me because you are such a well-reputed diplomat, this makes it all the more compelling.

We adopt paragraph 38.

Paragraph 39, comments? Distinguished representative of Egypt.

Mr. M. MAHMOUD (Egypt): I would have some modification. The second line, “not appropriate any part of outer space” to be replaced by “appropriate outer space or any part thereof”. The meaning here is any part is not permitted to be appropriated but the idea is, outer space or any part thereof.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Any comments on Egypt’s proposal? The distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Paragraph 39 is adopted.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): To paragraph 39, the last sentence here “either by claim of sovereignty or by means of use” even “repeated use” this can be accepted but then, we should still act the language of article II of the Outer Space Treaty, “or by any other means”, this is very important.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): If we have a reference to article II to the Treaty in this context, then we need to be much more precise and for the third time running, I think Professor Kopal is right, which makes me very envious because he is going to be the next chairman, of course, but I am still the Chair, and between now and next year, so do not cry victory too prematurely.

Do we first of all agree with Professor Kopal’s proposal? Thank you.

Now I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. A. REY-CÓRDOBA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I understand Professor Kopal’s suggestion and I am also very attracted by yours, that if we are talking to articles I and II, then naturally, we have to be perfectly consistent with what the second says, and it says “by claim of sovereignty or by any other means”, so we need to take out the word “repeated” and just repeat the exact text verbatim of article II.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): There are two things here. First of all I have no problem attracting you with my suggestions, let us make that clear. Secondly, here we are talking about an opinion which was expressed, that we have to respect the sovereign rights of those who express such views

but comments are very welcome if they will enrich a view which has been expressed.

If there is no objection, then we would leave the text as it stands, with the amendment which was tacitly accepted, by Professor Kopal.

Would we agree with that procedure?

It is so decided.

Paragraph 40, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 41? Distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. A. REY-CÓRDOBA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Just to put something right, technically. It talks about the procedures of spectrum/orbit allocation asserted by ITU, I think it is more likely to be, assignment of resources.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I think that is very right that we should use the appropriate language used in the organization concerned, in this case, ITU. Could I ask the Secretariat to record that, it has already taken note of your opinion and I am not sure there is going to be any objection to using the relevant parlance of ITU.

Paragraph 41 is adopted.

Paragraph 42, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 43, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 44? Distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. A. REY-CÓRDOBA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): According to my information from ITU, the Conference goes on until 16 November and not 2 November, I would like that to be checked by the Office but I do understand that to be the case.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): The appropriate changes will be made, indeed, if there is such a mistake. I am informed by the

Secretariat that what it says on ITU website is until 16 November, so it will be duly reflected.

Paragraph 45, comments on 45?

Adopted.

Paragraph 46?

Adopted.

With your permission, I would like to make a minor amendment on the part of the Chair. Given that the issue is directly related to ITU, I would propose that we make a change but I am not going to argue about it because if you reject it I am not going to press it, I am always very respectful to what you say, it says that “the Subcommittee agreed that the ITU should be invited” and I would say “the Subcommittee agreed that the ITU should participate” because it is an obligation, it is an item which involves ITU, just saying they should be invited could be a yes or no.

Would we agree “should participate”. Thank you very much.

Adopted with that amendment to 46.

Paragraph 47, any comments?

Adopted.

Just a second please because I am being assailed by my advisers on both sides.

Before giving the floor to Professor Kopal of the Czech Republic, I would just like to go back a second to a previous paragraph and I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat): Paragraph 47, this request by the Subcommittee related to the inclusion, in the future Treaty booklet, of the text of paragraph 4 of the General Assembly resolution, together with the paper with the agreement as contained in annex III, which is reflected at the end of that paragraph. There is a slight change that has to be made to this paragraph, in line 6, the words “as reflected in” could be replaced by “and”. In that case, it would then be clear that it is both the General Assembly resolution, paragraph 4 and the text in annex III.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you. Is Professor Kopal satisfied? He does not look too satisfied. You have the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): In connection with the consideration of this article or paragraph of the report, I would like to bring to your attention one thing. We have also in the present text of the United Nations treaties, resolution 1721B, this is an important text, I agree, and it could be retained, of course, in future editions but what should be added, would be resolution 1721A because this is a very relevant resolution from the point of view of the development of international space law. It was just resolution 1721B which spelt out, for the first time, two important principles, namely, that international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applies to outer space and celestial bodies and second, for the first time, there was also the principle of non-appropriation spelt out there and in that resolution and then it was transferred in the 1963 Declaration without any change and in the Outer Space Treaty 1967, so the beginning of these two important principles was just in resolution 1721A and it should be reflected here.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic. I wonder whether there is any objection to something, which in my judgement ... just a second ...

I would like to ask Professor Kopal, if he wants it included in the paragraph but not necessarily everything that is in these booklets, otherwise we are going to end up in a situation when hardly anybody can understand what is being said, we would end up with an endless text, a modern version of the Encyclopaedia Britannica if we include too many resolutions.

Can I ask that it be duly reflected in the paragraph of the report? You have the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): I agree with you that it could be reflected in the paragraph of the report but, the purpose of my note is, just to include the resolution 1721A together with 1721B because those who have known the resolution of the consideration of legal aspects in COPUOS, would not understand why just 1721A was omitted because from the point of view of the legal concern of COPUOS and now of its Legal Subcommittee, resolution 1721A is even more important than 1721B, this I cannot understand why, just resolution A, was not included and it is one page not more.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Before giving the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia, resolution 1721 has to be included because it essentially spawned international space law so I would be inclined to agree with what Professor Kopal has said, it does give us a conceptual reference and legal reference framework. If there is no major objection to the resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly at the appropriate time, not even by consensus, it was a unanimous vote in favour so putting those up for discussion is going a bit far.

Distinguished representative of Colombia, do you really want to insist on speaking? You have the floor.

Mr. A. REY-CÓRDOBA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I am certainly not going to argue about this or discuss it, I just wanted to clarify, to some extent, what the situation is now. I would agree that 1721 could be referred to in the report but what we are saying here is what was stated by the Italian delegation, in paragraph 47, that is it, that is all there is to it!

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): That is a very practical, pragmatic explanation, a very germane one. We could put in a paragraph 47bis and that would resolve the entire problem and everybody will be happy.

It is so decided, 47bis.

Let us move on to paragraph 48, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 49, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 50, any comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 51, comments?

Adopted.

Paragraph 52?

Adopted.

Paragraph 53?

Adopted.

Paragraph 54?

Adopted.

Paragraph 55?

Adopted.

Paragraph 56, which of course, as in previous cases, will be filled in.

Paragraph 56 adopted.

Paragraph 57, what a pleasure to see José Monserrat Filho coming back at this point because this paragraph refers to the section of the meeting which you chaired. You were not in the room but your spirit was. Your spirit is always with us. I would like to record your presence.

Paragraph 57 adopted.

Paragraph 58, again with the gaps to be filled in by the Secretariat.

Adopted.

Paragraph 59?

Adopted.

Section VI. Review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space

Paragraph 60?

Adopted.

Paragraph 61?

Adopted.

Paragraph 62?

Adopted.

Paragraph 63?

Adopted.

Paragraph 64?

Adopted.

Paragraph 65?

Adopted.

Paragraph 66?

Adopted.

Paragraph 67?

Adopted.

Paragraph 68?

Adopted.

Paragraph 69?

Adopted.

The Chairman is using the Spanish text, the numbering is different from the English text.

Distinguished delegates, after a lengthy and animated debate, we have adopted the report of the Legal Subcommittee. I would therefore like to have this text adopted in its entirety, now we have done it paragraph by paragraph.

It is so decided.

The report of the Legal Subcommittee, as amended, is adopted.

Before closing this meeting, with your permission, I would like to make a few comments.

First of all, the pride and privilege which I have had in chairing this Subcommittee and I have learnt a great deal from you. It has been a very illustrative exercise, I would have liked to have more time but I do not think Professor Kopal will give me the chance.

The report is adopted Professor Kopal. Any amendments?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): I have just consulted with a colleague, a specialist of the United States delegation, in order to understand better whether what was written in paragraph 53 was really right. It is

a question of facts not the question of use. It is stated here that, in the second line, that, "in view of the fact that both the X-15 rocket plane and SpaceShipOne were regarded as spacecraft". I ascertained, by the consultation with my colleague, Jay Steptoe, that the SpaceShipOne was registered under the Commercial Launch Act in the United States as a sub-orbital but it was not said that it was a spacecraft and as to the X-15, I have also doubts that it could be considered as a spacecraft. Even if this paragraph reflects the view of one delegation, I do not know which one, it should be from the point of view of facts, correct, not wrong.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I do not have any problem with that, I think you are right.

So we re-adopt paragraph 53.

Distinguished representative of Spain.

Mr. R. MORO-AGUILAR (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Just to point out that, in the Spanish version, we need to change the reference to "SpaceShipOne" it says "SpaceChipOne" in the Spanish text.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you. Can I urge you not to re-open the whole discussion just because of one paragraph.

Mr. A. REY-CÓRDOBA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): What Professor Kopal has clarified is important because the whole point about X-15 is that, it is one of the issues which has an impact on the doctrine and analysis of the definition and delimitation of outer space. It argues in favour of our thesis that there should be such a definition and delimitation, in the light of whether it is inside or outside outer space.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you. We have adopted the text along the lines explained by Professor Kopal, paragraph 53, and we have already adopted the report in its entirety.

I was saying, for me, it has really been a source of pride and privilege to work with you and to learn so much from you, both from the legal point of view and from the political point view and, I have had an enormous privilege, sitting here at this podium surrounded by such outstanding advisers, both on the front row and on the back row. They are people of the highest intellectual calibre, I am not having any argument about that, Secretary. I think you have made a tremendous effort and I would especially like to

thank the interpreters as well who, as always, have provided us with major assistance, as well as the conference clerks, indeed the whole system which has functioned impeccably.

I would just like to make a personal point, they are all personal points but, let us just hope that, in the near future, we will have a Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, who will be even remotely of the calibre of my friend, Dr. Sergio Camacho, who is still going to be with us in June, unless he leaves before and at that time I will be a delegate, a mere delegate, and I pledge to afford you the respect you deserve, you interpret that as you will.

Again, special thanks to all of you and those observers who have been tracking the whole negotiating process, my friend Maureen _____ (*inaudible*) and others, who have been here the whole time, that they are not just people who turn up, make a speech and clear off, that is very important.

I would like to express my sadness and satisfaction about the attendance of some delegations and non-attendance of others, which have financial, technical, intellectual resources which are more than sufficient for them to attend such a meeting and to participate in our debates.

It has gone very well, there has been a good chemistry between us, at the same, I sense that, thanks to your contributions, a new spirit of international cooperation is being generated here. This is something we should not forget, this is not just a legal forum, there are distinguished representatives here, such as my distinguished colleague from France, from Austria, distinguished international law professors but we are also talking about international co-existence, cooperation in a globalized world with its gaps, its bright spots and dark spots, it is a complicated field and we have made headway towards greater cooperation, which especially takes into account, the interests of developing countries. There is a planetary-wide need because we are talking about outer space, public service, peace, international security, they are all underpinned by what is happening on one part of the planet which is bound to have an impact on another part of the planet. Obviously, we need to develop norms and standards on a planet-wide scale which is partially reflected in the last report, I stress, partially reflected.

In the last report and other reports too, the human development report of UNDP, the last one was on water and poverty. We have also looked at this ourselves, the relationship between space and water, we must take it into account the fact that, 60 per cent of

the world's population has no access to drinking water and it should be a human right, recognized for human beings to have access daily to such water, 20 litres a day but this is very often just a virtual reality not a practical reality, it has to be practically a fact of life, otherwise we would be failing to comply with the mandate of the United Nations, stemming from the Millennium Declaration, 55/2, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, which have not been achieved by the member States of the United Nations.

This is an important issues to be considered as well as the instruments which provide international, technological cooperation and give us an idea what is happening across the globe, especially climate change, which is the greatest menace to the modern-day world and which is being discussed at this very time, I think it is today, the political decision-makers of various countries of the world will be given a mandate to tackle these issues. Mankind has to be consistent in this context. One of the sections of resolution 26/25, identifies the seven essential principles of the United Nations Charter, referring to the duty to cooperate.

Cooperation is not an arbitrary matter or a discretionary matter, it is an obligation and indeed, this can be deduced from the principles and objectives and preamble of the Charter, articles 55, 56, others, which I cannot recall at this stage but it is very important to address this and here, I would like to refer to the sentence in an article I read once, which really struck me, from a person I had great admiration for, Federico Mayor, the ex-Director-General of UNESCO, he said,

knowledge and boldness go hand-in-hand, tomorrow that may be the case but it is not true that it is too late to show courage. I think that is a sentence which can fit perfectly in our context, when there are millions of people who are extremely poor, who do not feature in national statistics, they are just left by the wayside, they are non-persons from the statistical point of view. Living in urban settlements which are not statistically recognized or acknowledged, which makes it all the more imperative, in the context of this Committee, which at this session has been especially productive, it is all the more important then, for this to be the case in the future.

Hence, I would urge us all to work together, as we have done, in an environment of mutual respect, an atmosphere in which the backcloth is one of creating the bases for robust international cooperation, sound international cooperation, action-oriented cooperation, to resolve the problems which all human beings on the world face, all individuals are born with the same dignity, there are no small countries here and no great countries, no more important delegations or less important delegations, or more important individuals and less important individuals, we are all born with the same dignity.

Thank you very much again, I restate those thanks and I wish to close this session. Thank you.

The meeting closed at 11.37 a.m.