

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

*Unedited transcript*

775<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Monday, 7 April 2008, 10 a.m.

Vienna

*Chairman: Mr. V. Kopal (Czech Republic)*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.13 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Good morning distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 775<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I would first like to inform you of our programme of work for this morning.

We will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 8(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, and agenda item 8(b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 10, 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, and agenda item 11, Capacity-Building in Space Law.

The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space will also hold its sixth meeting.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

Before I proceed with our programme, I would like to remind delegations that the Secretariat circulated last week the provisional list of participants, distributed as Conference Room Paper No. 2. In this regard, I would like to request delegations to kindly

provide the Secretariat with possible corrections to the list by the end of today. Today is the deadline.

**Definition and delimitation of outer space (agenda item 8(a))**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and possibly suspend our consideration of agenda item 8(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, pending the adoption of the report of the Working Group on this item.

I do not have any speaker on my list for this particular item. Is there any delegation wishing to take the floor on this item?

I see none.

Is there any observer wishing to take the floor?

I see none.

So I believe that we can now suspend our consideration of agenda item 8(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, pending the adoption of the report of the Working Group on this item.

*It is so decided.*

**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 (agenda item 8(b))**

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.



Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 8(b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit.

Neither here do I have any speaker on my list. Is there any delegation wishing to speak on this item 8(b)?

I see none.

Any observer wishing to speak?

I see none.

So I now consider this item also to be suspended. We have concluded the consideration of agenda item 8(b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit.

**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 (agenda item 10)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 10, 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.

Again, I do not have any speaker on my list. Is there any delegation or any observer wishing to speak on this particular item, item 10?

I see none.

**Capacity-building in space law (agenda item 11)**

So let us proceed with item 11.

Distinguished delegates, I would now ask anybody wishing to speak on item 11. Is there any delegation wishing to speak on capacity-building in space law?

Yes, I have a speaker on my list and it is the distinguished delegate, the representative of the United States of America.

You have the floor Sir.

**Mr. M. SIMONOFF** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman and good

morning fellow delegates. It is a pleasure to discuss capacity-building efforts in the area of space law.

First, I would like to report on formal space law education in the United States. Several United States Law Schools teach space law and many have dedicated space law classes. There are two programmes in the United States dedicated to space law. The National Centre for Remote Sensing Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law serves an important purpose and contributes to the remote sensing and space industry by addressing and conducting research, education and outreach activities related to the legal aspects of applying remote sensing air and space technologies for human activities. The Centre offers a wide range of courses on air space and remote sensing law and publishes the Journal of Space Law.

A new programme in the United States, the University of Nebraska College of Law's Space and Telecom Law Master of Laws, combines space law with telecommunications law rather than a traditional combination of space and air law. In addition to the LL.M. Degree, the University of Nebraska Law School offers a Master of Legal Studies in Space and Telecom Law for non-lawyers and a traditional JD Degree with specialization in space and telecommunications law.

Second, short space law workshops are offered by professional organizations including the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the National Space Society, the American Astronautical Society and the Space Foundation. In addition, the American Bar Association hosts a forum on space law two times a year which is available for continuing legal education credit.

There are also law students space law writing competitions and a Space Law Moot Court Programme which students argue cases and simulated international court hearings.

Regarding capacity-building for developing countries, United States Government officials and law professors have had the pleasure of participating in capacity-building workshops sponsored by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. We think that these efforts, as well as other Office for Outer Space Affairs efforts, have been valuable contributions to capacity-building in the area of space law.

In our view, the agenda item on national space legislation is an example of how the Subcommittee can itself contribute to capacity-building. Countries with robust legal regimes in the space law area can provide

other countries with concrete examples of space-related legislation which may enable those other countries to build their capacity in this area.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished representative of the United States for your contribution to agenda item 11, Capacity-Building in Space Law, by which you informed us about the activities in this particular field in the United States about the Centres existing at the University of Mississippi and Nebraska. Also about the activities of professional organizations in the United Nations (States?) about the Moot Court Competitions that are regularly organized at different United States universities and also about the participation of United Nations experts in the workshops and other meetings held by the United Nations.

Thank you very much.

Is there any other speaker on item 11, Capacity-Building in Space Law?

I see none.

And, therefore, this item too is now terminated for this morning and we will continue our consideration of agenda item 11, Capacity-Building in Space Law, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to adjourn this meeting so that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space can hold its sixth meeting.

Before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 10, 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, and agenda item 11,

Capacity-Building in Space Law. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 12, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space. This is the only point which we will have to consider under a Work Plan and at this session there will be the first meeting, the first session on this important item.

There will be today a technical presentation by a representative of the United States entitled "Overview of United States Laws Governing Space Activities".

The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space will also hold its sixth or seventh meeting according to the results of this morning, a meeting, and suspend its deliberations until the adoption of the report of the Working Group. So that this will be the last opportunity to speak here in the Working Group on the item.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I now invite Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou ... is he here? To my regret, the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Vassilios is ... is just coming, yes.

I wanted to say to my great pleasure not to my regret.

But you were not singing in the rain. You may be singing now. Very good. So I am quite happy that you have appeared and it was in due time. Therefore, I now postponed the further consideration of our Subcommittee and kindly invite the Chairman of the Working Group to take over and start his sixth meeting of the Working Group.

I think it is all that we have to discuss now and, therefore, this meeting is adjourned.

*The meeting adjourned at 10.27 a.m.*