

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

Unedited transcript

779th Meeting

Wednesday, 9 April 2008, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. V. Kopal (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.14 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 779th 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 first allow the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties to adopt its report and then continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. We will hear the report of the Working Group in the Subcommittee and this will be presented by the Chairman of the Working Group.

We will then continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items.

I would also like to remind delegates that at 7.30 p.m. this evening we will be hosted at a Reception by the European Space Policy Institute, ESPI, in Schwartzbergerplatz 6, Vienna, with the entrance through Zaunergasse 1 to 3, the second floor. So once again it is in Schwartzbergerplatz 6 and entrance is through Zaunergasse 1 to 3, the second floor.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (agenda item 6)

So let us start now with agenda item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, agenda item 6.

Before opening the discussion of the Subcommittee on it, I would like to suspend this meeting so that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties can hold its seventh meeting with a view to adopting its report and submitting it for endorsement to the Subcommittee and we will then resume our meeting for this purpose, for the endorsement of the report of the Working Group.

Therefore, the 779th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is now suspended and ask the distinguished representative of Greece to take over the Chair.

The meeting was suspended at 10.22 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 11.33 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I now reconvene the 779th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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.



I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece, to present the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Cassapoglou, you have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure to inform you that the work of the Working Group on agenda item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations on Outer Space, at the current session of the Legal Subcommittee, was very productive. The Working Group held seven meetings during which time it was able to prepare a good foundation for its future work.

The report of the Working Group which has just been adopted by its members is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2008/PRE/L.1.

It is my pleasure to submit the report to the Subcommittee for its adoption.

At this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, dear colleague, I would like to express my gratitude to the colleagues of the Working Group, of the delegates, as well as the colleagues from the Secretariat and, last but not least, the colleagues in the booths. I am grateful to all of them and I wish them the best. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman for your kind attention.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Cassapoglou for the introduction of the report that has just been approved within the Subcommittee.

I would not like to take action on the report of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2008/PRE/L.1.

Do I take it that the Subcommittee endorses the report of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space?

I see no objection. So the report of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space is endorsed by the Subcommittee.

We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. But before

doing it, I would like to thank warmly to our distinguished colleague, Dr. Vassilios Cassapoglou, for the guidance of the Working Group and also for the excellent work of the Working Group at this year's session. Thank you very much.

General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (agenda item 12)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

And on the list of speakers, I have already one delegation and it is the distinguished delegation of Brazil.

You have the floor Sir.

Mr. A. TENÓRIO MOURÃO (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Though we are reaching our conclusions of the debate on this issue, the Brazilian delegation would like to say that it welcomes the introduction of this general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful uses of outer space in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.

In this respect, we are pleased to inform that since the establishment of our space programme, Brazil has made significant efforts to adequately develop our national legislation on outer space. Among the most relevant pieces of Brazilian legislation pertinent to this area, it is possible to mention the Law on the establishment of the Brazilian Space Agency, the Law on Sensitive Goods, the National Policy for the Development of Space Activities, the Decree on the National System for the Development of Space Activities, the Regulation on the Licensing of Space Launches from the Brazilian Territory, the Regulation on the Authorization of Space Launches from the Brazilian Territory. The Electronic Reference through all these documents was submitted to the Secretariat and should later be made available to the members and observers of the Subcommittee.

We have also adopted in December 2007 the Brazilian Regulations on Space Safety which contain the rules to be followed in space activities that have Brazil as launching State for the protection of human integrity, assets and the environment. These standards have to be observed from the initial stage of the project until its operational phase.

We would like to conclude, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to stress this point, by stating that though we believe development of national legislation is crucial to the administration of space activities, it can only have a complementary character to international laws on this issue. The adequate regulation of space activities requires continuous advances in international space law. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Brazil for your statement on item 12 of our agenda in which you informed the Subcommittee on significant efforts developed in your country in the area of the national legislation on outer space. You listed the most important Acts belonging to this area and you also mentioned a recent document, the Brazilian Regulation on Space Safety.

Finally, I also would like to mention here and repeat here once again the content of the last paragraph of your speech that, of course, the national legislation, however important it is for the development of space law, can only have a complementary character to international laws on this issue and that you also emphasized the need for further advance of international space law. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do not have any other speaker on the list of speakers on agenda item 12 but is there any other delegation wishing to speak on this particular item because, as I have already said, we intend to conclude the consideration of this item at this morning's meeting.

Is there any other delegation?

I see none and, therefore, our discussion on item 12 is now concluded.

Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items (agenda item 13)

Distinguished delegates, we will now proceed with the discussion on item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items.

We will continue in our discussion of yesterday because the most part of our future programme was discussed already and agreed upon yesterday.

We have before us a non-paper on the informal consultation on agenda items that was circulated yesterday and we concluded our discussion of yesterday by confirming that all items presently on

the agenda as regular items, single issues/items for discussion and items considered under work plans will remain on the agenda at the session of the Legal Subcommittee in the next year.

With regard to the single issue/item for discussion 6(b), 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, we decided that the opportunity will be given at this meeting today to the distinguished delegate of Ecuador who was not able to be present at yesterday's session to express his opinion on this item.

I do not see the distinguished representative of Ecuador and I was kindly advised by his colleague, the distinguished representative of Colombia, that he would not be able to come for this meeting because of his sickness. But the distinguished representative of Colombia informed me at the same time that he contacted the distinguished representative of Ecuador that his opinion was that this point 6(b) should remain as it states, it means without any changes for reasons that have been already explained yesterday by him and also by me and by perhaps other delegations. Therefore, I believe that we could accept this advice of our distinguished colleague of Ecuador and that we should keep agenda item 6(b) as it states.

Yes, the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Chairman. I would like to point out that we are not that happy with the present state of this paragraph (b) so perhaps we could add a little (c) concerning access, equitable access to other orbits, or taking into account the needs of developing States.

In my view, if we were to add this, this would be nicely in line with Article 44 of the ITU Charter because otherwise the exercise and consideration which were undertaken would not be a full-fledged one. It would suffer a shortcoming. So if you are open to this then I could propose something we could add, some wording we could add. I will not belabour the point however, but I believe that this is a way in which we can bring closer together two points of view which are somewhat contradictory. I am referring to the ITU Charter and the provisions of the Radiocommunication Rules which have been enforced since December 1998. So that is 10 years now. Thank you Sir and I am, of course, in your hands.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of Greece for your suggestion but could you please read your proposal at a slower pace?

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Chairman, thank you. Could I return to this in five minutes, I would then have the text ready? Please continue with our proceedings and I will come back to this when I am ready. I would not want to ...

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): What you have read out seemed to me to be fine.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): I am ready to write this in English. In that way we would have the precise wording and make sure it is line with Article 44.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Yes, absolutely, do as you see fit. In the meantime, we will continue.

(*Continued in English*) Distinguished delegates, I believe that all that is on Page 1 of the non-paper has been approved except this fresh suggestion made by the distinguished representative of Greece and that also from the Page 2 we have already checked everything, what is here including the paragraph 137 and paragraph 141. And, therefore, it remains only the last part of Page 2, namely proposals for new agenda items under general exchange of views at the current session which have two sub-paragraphs. For the first sub-paragraph reads “exchange of information about national rules for space debris mitigation and measures for the voluntary implementation of the COPUOS Guidelines, proposed by Italy and Ukraine. And sub-paragraph (b) which so far is void, it includes only three dots.

Perhaps we will now have open the discussion on this last part of Page 2 and I see on my list of speakers the distinguished representative of Italy.

Ms. _____(?) (Italy): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with reference to proposals for new agenda items as quoted in the non-paper presented yesterday under paragraph (a), my delegation can report that after some informal consultations, it seems to emerge a consensus for one year single issue/item with a slightly different formulation that will read as follows: “general

exchange of information on national mechanism relating to space debris mitigation measures”.

It is our opinion, Mr. Chairman, that this formulation will allow any delegation who wish to take the floor to report on any activity, procedures and actions with respect to space debris mitigation in their country. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of Italy for your introducing a new text or amended text of the sub-paragraph (a) on Page 2, in the bottom of Page 2. And if my recording is correct, you proposed “general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures”, is it correct? Yes. Thank you very much.

So you have heard it twice, it means once from the distinguished representative of Italy and once as repeated by myself and confirmed as correct by the distinguished representative of Italy.

I now have several speakers on my list. I give the floor to the first of them, it is the distinguished representative of Ukraine.

Ms. _____(?) (Ukraine)(*interpretation from Russian*): Chairman, thank you. The delegation of Ukraine wants to make a proposal on a new agenda item for the forty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee as was also in the framework of our discussion of point 5 and we back the agenda item proposed by the Italian delegation, based on consultations we engaged in with that said delegation.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Russian*): I thank you distinguished representative of Ukraine for your contribution on this item in which you backed the proposal which was just voiced by the distinguished representative of Italy. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Germany.

Mr. _____(?) (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to thank the Italian colleague for this re-formulated proposal. Germany would like to back this proposal.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of Germany for your support of the proposal made by the distinguished representative of Italy and also supported by the distinguished representative of Ukraine. Thank you.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Chairman. We, too, now would like to thank our colleague from the Italian delegation for her proposal which is backed by the delegations of Ukraine and Germany. We, too, associate ourselves and back this proposal.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of Greece for associating yourself with this proposal which was just made by the distinguished representative of Italy, backed by Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Germany. Thank you.

(*Continued in English*) And I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States of America.

Mr. _____(?) (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We also thank Italy and Ukraine for the revision and the proposal and we think this will be a very valuable agenda item for discussion next year, if adopted. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of the United States of America for your support of the proposal made by Italy and supported by some other delegations and welcome your statement. Thank you very much.

Any other delegation wishing to speak on this particular item? The distinguished representative of Chile has the floor.

Mr. _____(?) (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chair. We would like to propose a new item for the agenda in 2009 in this Subcommittee.

Legal repercussions on the applications of space technology for climate change of which this could perhaps be a small (c) here. We have produced this English wording in paragraph 137 of the legal implications of space applications for a global climate change. That is the title.

We think there is more than ample reason to include this in the non-paper and we think this would facilitate the discussion that might take place. And I want to separate this from the Symposium theme since yesterday we accepted the idea that the Symposium was the initiative of its own sponsors. We agree with that and so we think it is advisable as a new proposal here following small (b) to include this a non-paper.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Chile. Your proposals has been well heard, of course, but I would like to seek your approval for a certain delay in discussing this proposal because I would like first to conclude on sub-paragraph (a) and your proposal will be submitted as sub-paragraph (b) so please I beg for a certain patience in this respect but certainly it will be then discussed.

I believe that the distinguished representative of China will probably be speaking on sub-paragraph (a). Yes, you have the floor Sir.

Mr. _____(?) (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We thank the Italian delegation for its proposal. The Chinese delegation welcomes any efforts that will help the mitigation of space debris and we would like to see that delegations and every country would share their information. The Chinese delegation supports the proposal made by the Italian delegation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of China for your support of the proposal that was made by Italy and supported by some other delegations and for your joining this group of supporters which is, of course, welcome. Thank you very much once again.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Japan.

Mr. _____(?) (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Japanese delegation also supports the Italian proposal _____ (*not clear*). Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of Japan for your joining the group of sponsors of this proposal made by the distinguished representative of Italy.

These are all the speakers that applied and subscribed their names in the list of speakers. Is there any other delegation wishing to speak on this proposal?

Yes, I recognize the representative, the observer for the European Space Agency.

Mr. _____(?) (European Space Agency): Thank you Chairman, distinguished delegates, speaking here as an observer, the European Space Agency would welcome the decision by the Legal Subcommittee to include an item in the agenda

of its 2009 session and in which information on mechanisms for mitigating space debris would be exchanged. In such a case, the European Space Agency would not only be interested to learn from the rich experience of others but would also be pleased to contribute to the successful treatment of this item by the Subcommittee with a presentation of its own mechanisms for space debris mitigation which forms an important element of the implementation of the Agency's programmes. I thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished observer for the European Space Agency for your support of this new item to be included in the agenda of the next session of the Legal Subcommittee and, of course, we will also welcome next year during the discussion if ESA participates in the consideration on this new point.

I now recognize the distinguished observation for the International Law Association.

Mr. _____ (?) (International Law Association): Chairman, this concerns only(?) of the proposal from Italy and Ukraine. Should we not call the Guidelines "the United Nations Guidelines on the Mitigation of Space Debris"? Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your comment distinguished observer for the International Law Association and it is, of course, up to the Committee to take it into account and consider it.

Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. _____ (?) (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Chairman. We, as one of the delegations, which took part in the consultations regarding the agenda item proposed by Italy and Ukraine are ready to back the wording which was read out by Italy. And we do not believe that any clarifications or amendments or interpretations should be made which would unduly expand the scope and thrust of this proposal.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you distinguished representative of the Russian Federation for your contribution to this item and for your support for the text as it stands as a result of the consultations between interested delegations.

(*Continued in English*) Are there any other delegation wishing to speak on this item?

I see none.

Ladies and gentlemen, the discussion was a clear evidence that there exists a consensus on this proposal of a new item to be included in our agenda for the next session of the Legal Subcommittee and that this consensus also relates to the formulation of this item, as proposed by Italy and supported by a number of other delegations. So may I take it that this formulation and this proposal as a whole has been agreed by our Subcommittee.

I still have the application of the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. _____ (?) (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chair. Sorry I intervened after you had made your conclusions here but we, as a delegation, also are favourable to the wording initially proposed by Italy which has a qualitative number of countries which we very much support having here. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Colombia for your intervention and by which the circle, the group of supporters of the Italian proposal has been extended by your country.

So may I once again repeat my request that this item is adopted for the next agenda of the Legal Subcommittee and that its wording is in conformity, in accordance with the proposal made by the distinguished representative of Italy and supported by a number of other delegations?

I see no objections.

It is so decided.

And now we should turn to the sub-paragraph (b) and which so far has been void but we have heard a few minutes ago a proposal made by the distinguished representative of Chile and it is up to you, members of the Subcommittee, to take it into account, to consider it and to express your opinion about it.

Yes, perhaps I would repeat the title of this proposal that has been made by the distinguished representative of Chile. It should read "Legal Implications of Space Applications for Global Climate Change". And the suggestion was that it should be one single issue, one-year consideration of this item.

The floor is open.

Yes, the distinguished representative of Colombia has the floor.

Mr. _____(?) (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chair. The Colombian delegation would like to additionally illustrate what has been said by the delegate of Chile when they made this proposal. Indeed, this has to do with the Regional Seminar held in Santiago de Chile for countries of the region. This was a Seminar which, from what I understand, it was a great success and really covered specific concerns. So I would ask the delegations here to take a look at this in a spirit of generosity. It is a difficult topic, we know this. We know that there technical elements in it that COPUOS has to deal with but I think we should just take a look at this and see if we wish to continue and give it a certain follow-up to this very interesting Symposium. Really, the impression that we had was that there was not enough time, that it should have lasted longer, this Symposium, because of different questions that it generated and that there were several variations that could have been continued here. So we would ask that a spirit of generosity and a constructive spirit prevail here and that we not look at this in a restrictive way because of its complexity but the possibility be given to us to continue the discussion on this in the coming year.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Colombia for your support of the idea of further work on legal implications of space applications for global climate change because of the fact that the Symposium that was held during this session has raised a number of fairly complex problems and questions and that during the Symposium it was not possible to discuss everything in detail and to further develop this very complex issue. Thank you very much.

Any other delegation wishes to speak? I recognize the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. _____(?) (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you very much Chair. Unfortunately our delegation cannot express its support for the proposal just made by the Chilean delegate for the reason that we believe that this has not been studied thoroughly enough technically and that in addition to the climate viewpoint we have to look at this from a legal viewpoint.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you. Let me thank the Russian delegate for that statement. You have indicated that we

have to look at both, well, scientific and technical viewpoints before moving to the legal viewpoint on this proposal.

(*Continued in English*) I now recognize the distinguished representative of the United States of America.

Mr. _____(?) (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman and the United States, like Russia, is not able to support this proposal. We do think that climate change is a very important issue and the United States has been participating with many other countries in the post-Bali discussions under the auspices of the United Nations Framework on the Climate Change Convention.

The United States though thinks that this is not the place to have a discussion of legal aspects of space-related applications of climate change because one of the things that was made very, very clear from the Symposium is that there is much work already being done through both the United Nations Framework on Climate Change and through GEO and GEOS, GECOSS(?). There are several very complex, very well developed systems which are already in place which take legal issues into account. So we do not think it would be appropriate for this body to take this issue up because, as we heard, the space applications aspect is one of many different components of looking at climate change data and that there are also ground measurements. There is a whole complex system which climate experts can take into account and which this body does not really have the capacity because we are not climate experts.

In one other note, we heard in the presentation in the Symposium some references, in at least one of the presentations, to re-opening the Remote Sensing Principles and we would not be in a position to support such a re-opening and that is another reason why we have reservations of putting this as a new agenda item on the Legal Subcommittee's agenda. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of the United States for the expression of the attitude of the distinguished delegation of the United States towards this particular proposal. And you emphasized in your statement the complexity of the issue and the fact that the interest of the Legal Subcommittee relates just to part of this complex issue and there is a care(?) of this issue as a whole by other international organizations and by discussions that are going on, particularly under the framework of the

protection of the environment, the Conference in Bali and so on.

And I also have listened to your remark concerning another proposal that was made during the discussion, not now but before, that related to the Remote Sensing Principles and you emphasized that your delegation would not recommend the opening of a discussion about the present Principles of the United Nations relating to this issue.

I now give the floor to the United Kingdom, to the distinguished delegation of the United Kingdom.

Ms. _____(?) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I would like to say at the outset that the United Kingdom feels that climate change is a very important issue which certainly needs to be given a lot of attention and there is a lot of scope for work in this area. And we listened very carefully to the Symposium last week on Monday and Tuesday and we thought it was a very, very useful opportunity to run through the main issues. But what came clearly out of the discussions was that this is an issue that is being discussed in a number of foras and we did not get the feeling that COPUOS was necessarily, and the Legal Subcommittee, the best place to discuss some of these issues. We felt that it was being discussed in the right areas and elsewhere and that our discussion, we did not really feel that there was going to be enough substance to justify the work of a Working Group on it.

So basically we would like to support the points made by the United States. We do feel it is an important issue but we do not think that COPUOS is necessarily the right fora to discuss these issues. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of the United Kingdom for your contribution by which you associated your delegation to the views that have been explained before by the distinguished representative of the United States. And at the same time, you very well appreciated the Symposium that was held during the session of this Subcommittee in the beginning but you held the view that the complexity, because of the complexity of the problems, the Legal Subcommittee was not the proper place for discussion on it because it belongs to other fora that are dealing in this particular area.

Any other delegation wants to speak now?

Yes, the distinguished representative of Colombia again, yes.

Mr. _____(?) (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chair. Well, as I said in my previous statement, I share the idea with others that this is a complex topic, one which is being dealt with in other fora in the United Nations and in specialized agencies. What happens often is that there is a specific element that is part of our mandate and which is dealt with by other bodies. The idea here is not that our mandate as such is excluded when we deal with topics in other fora of the United Nations, for example, the IUT (ITU?). Here it is clear that there is a specialized agency dealing with the different topics that we deal with here in certain aspects so there is complementarity and it is important to bear this in mind.

OK, I can see that there is no consensus, Chair, so let me ask you and through you the Secretariat that no(?) extensive dissemination be given to the results of this Symposium. I think that several excellent ideas were generated by this Symposium and perhaps we could try to at least disseminate these. Perhaps the Secretariat working beyond its traditional channels could ensure that this not become some kind of a themal conclusion that vanishes into thin air but that these very topical considerations be given a follow-up in this way by delegations. So hence, as I said, since there is no consensus, let me just ask that these results be disseminate in as constructive a way possible.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Colombia for your constructive proposal. With respect to this particular question, I have observed that you made a conclusion that it was not possible to reach the consensus on this proposal made by the distinguished representative of Chile but that you emphasized a need to use as much as possible the results of the Symposium so that delegations would be well informed about the results and that the ideas are expressed by the speakers at that Symposium should be extended as much as possible.

May I ask the distinguished Secretary of the Subcommittee if he could inform the Subcommittee about how the Secretariat and the Office for Outer Space Affairs intends to implement this suggestion.

Yes, you have the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the proceedings from the Symposium that we had the

first week during this session of the Legal Subcommittee, the proceedings with all the presentations are on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. And, Mr. Chairman, the Secretariat needs some precise guidelines if there is a wish by the Legal Subcommittee to do anything more about these proceedings. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Secretary for your answer to our request.

Are there any suggestions or requests from the part of the delegations? I recognize the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Chair. Just to add one point. Dissemination by electronic means through the website that we have, the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, is, I think, the easiest and cheapest way to do this because if we try to do it another way it is going to be costly for the Bureau and in a lot of these scant means that we have outside of our regular document distribution, I believe electronic dissemination is an excellent way of doing this. And I think that my friend and colleague from Colombia should take this idea into mind, this kind of dissemination. For the general public, something which cannot be done using traditional print. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Greece. Colombia.

Mr. _____(?) (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Sir. It seems to me that the website and the Internet are excellent means and I have nothing against that. Certainly, I think it is certainly a good idea. They are very useful and they are very universal in their coverage. Let me just ask the Secretariat again this. In the report that we have from this meeting, are we going to have a summary of the results or are you not planning to produce anything in this regard? Because, I think, in previous meetings we had an annex. Doing this, I am really sorry to burden you with this since it seems to be a bit problematic but it is, I think, justified that I ask that something be included about this Symposium in the proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Colombia for your support of the ideas that have been already raised by our distinguished colleague from Greece and also by your reference to the earlier practice that was performed after the conduct of previous symposia. I

also believe that we used to have such a summary or paper so at least the viewgraphs of something that was available and a summary of the discussions.

Before I give the floor to the observer of the IAF, is it IAF? Yes, I give the floor to the Deputy Secretary of this Subcommittee for further explanation.

Ms. N. RODRIGUES (Deputy Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, I may clarify, the distinguished representative of Colombia was indeed correct, we did in the past during the course of the Legal Subcommittee produce a CRP where we would then reproduce all the papers of the Symposia. We did cease to do that and opted for making them available on the Web because of some of the difficulties we had with printing PowerPoint slides and how they would actually present in printed form and because we had to produce them at such short notice. If it is the doubts(?) are the Subcommittee, the Secretariat could explore how to do this and maybe take away some of the background colour. They just take some time. We could do it after this session and then maybe just put it in the pigeonholes for delegations but it would be after the session because we have to play a bit with the actual presentations to take away the difficulties that we have regarding reproducing PowerPoint slides and it becomes quite a thick document. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Ms. Deputy Secretary for your useful additional information. Certainly we will be very patient in this respect because I understand that it is a major task that must be somehow well prepared but I have taken note of the agreement that this should be done.

Is there any other delegation that wants to speak on this subject? The distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you. First of all, it was a very long-standing tradition including either a résumé or the presentations themselves in this Committee or in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. But what is important here is this. Texts should be texts because there is no fashion of having PowerPoint slides with little dots and so on, bullets, it is one of the worst things, one of the worst ways to express something to people who are not there in real time. So my suggestion is this, and this goes for other meetings as well. We want to have a text, we should have a text, prose, because this mania for slides, now all you get out of there are kind of subtitles. We

are basically looking at a table of content. That is my first remark. And those things are useless for somebody who really wants to be informed, who wants to learn and go into depth.

Secondly, from a point of view of either electronic techniques here, it is so difficult to do colour scanning of this, that obliging the Secretariat to do this kind of reproduction is really imposing a very cumbersome burden on them. And Internet users who are not subscribing to service providers and doing it in high speed Internet services would find it very difficult to access this or to reproduce this. There is this whole mania about using colours and so on. This is not a painting exhibition we are talking about. It is not a design school. I think we have got to be very serious. When we prepare a document for utilization here by the general public, we need to keep the public informed and well informed as to what we are doing here and make it a substantial report on our work. Thank you very much Chair.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of Greece for your comments on how best to use and present, prepare documents, texts, documents of substance which could more easily be used by the general public and delegations themselves, in fact. Of course, this is a weighty problem faced by a great many symposium conferences because the speakers sometimes do not prepare complete texts but arrive with such little papers and in those cases, of course, it is very difficult to obtain complete texts from the delegates. But, of course, we have full trust in our Secretariat, convinced that it will spare no effort to ensure that we compile a very exhaustive document.

(*Continued in English*) Any other delegation? I still have the delegation of the United Kingdom.

Ms. _____(?) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and this is actually on a different issue and I do hope it is the correct time on the agenda to use it. I would like to say at the outset I would like to thank you for your excellent chairmanship which has enabled us to move through the agenda in a very efficient and effective manner. And we would actually like to raise a question about the duration of the meeting. We recall that this issue was raised by the representative of France at a previous meeting and we have noted in the past that it has been possible to get through our agenda in less time, on occasions, due to the constraints imposed by the dates of the Easter holidays, for example, when we have, I think, nine-day meetings

rather than 10 days. We believe that there might be some scope to shave a few days off the length of the meeting and we consider that this issue should be looked at in more detail at a future meeting, particularly in view of the ongoing discussions on the future roles and responsibilities of the Committee which is going forward in the main COPUOS session and was also recently raised at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. So, as I say, I am not sure if this is the right point to raise, but I did have instructions to say something about it at this meeting and thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of the United Kingdom. I thank you for the kind words that you extended to the Chair but you also raised a question that had been already raised at the last session by the distinguished representative of France and not insisting on its immediate consideration but you expressed your support to this suggestion. And since France applied for the discussion, I will immediately give now the floor to the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. _____(?) (France) (*interpretation from French*): Chairman, thank you. It _____(?) to me to say that we entirely share the point of view just voiced by the representative of the United Kingdom and fully so. We have worked very effectively under your chairmanship and achieved very rapid progress on our agenda while sticking to very reasonable working hours in the morning and the afternoon. We have, therefore, been very effective and made sure that our work was of the utmost quality. And I am wondering whether given the very serious costs of these meetings, the burden it places on the Secretariat, on the interpreters, and indeed our own personal agendas. Could we not for the next session of our Subcommittee perhaps have a shorter session? The duration remains to be determined but perhaps one could shave two or three days from the overall duration, unless, of course, new topics were to emerge, new topics which would require the next session of our Subcommittee to last two weeks. If this was the case, we would not be against it. But if there are no new topics which might take up our time, additional time, we continue to believe that the reasonable approach would be to somewhat reduce the duration of our sessions and we would, Sir, like to see this suggestion included in the report.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished representative of France for your contribution in which you reiterated your suggestion which you had already voiced last year and which, if I have understood correctly, you qualified

with the fact that as long as there are no new topics for our Subcommittee to tackle.

(Continued in English) I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) *(interpretation from French)*: Chairman, thank you. Two points. Firstly, in response to the question put by France. I believe that we have spent enough time discussing this reduction or in the duration of our meetings, especially those of the Legal Subcommittee. No consensus was achieved on this. Objections were heard from developing States, mostly developing States. I, therefore, do not see, at this juncture, and I say this because the issue of obtaining cost savings and achieving logistical savings are not a direct function of the duration of our meeting and I believe that the Secretariat benefits from the fact that they have a little more time at its disposal to prepare the documents necessary for our work. So I do not believe that we are in a position at this juncture to approve such a reduction in the duration of our meeting.

The next point. A few years ago I was not listened to. I was not listened to at a time when I said that if we do not accept this position, we will face a situation where procedural or points of order will be raised regarding the dates of the meeting of the Legal Subcommittee and we will only accept that a situation where the meetings will be held during the Orthodox faiths' Holy Easter week because all meetings were scheduled as a result of the Western world's Easter, the Roman Catholic church's Easter. And I have the calendar of Easters through to 2020 and I can assure you that those Easters where the Orthodox and Catholic faiths Easters do not(?) coincide and that is the 10th, 11th, 14th and 17th. All other Easters do not coincide. And unfortunately from what I see here, the Orthodox Easter next year falls on the 19th so we cannot be present here after the 12th April. The same is true of 2012. And I will leave it here because then, of course, I could go on and list the 14th and so forth. So Chairman please, take this situation into account because we, it is not just holidays, but we require the opportunity to pray during our Holy Week. Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from French)*: Thank you distinguished representative of Greece for having pointed this out, namely your information regarding the dates of our session and, of course, these points have to be taken into account but I do wish to draw your attention to the issue of the dates of the sessions of the Subcommittees is dealt with at the end of the session of the main Committee at the end

of June. It is not during the session of our Subcommittee that one decides this issue. Of course, it is your right to reiterate this suggestion during a session of the main Committee and I hope that you will be present at that time.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) *(interpretation from French)*: Chairman, I merely want to draw your attention to the fact that last month during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we had decided on dates. These were perhaps indicative dates which were to be forwarded to the Plenary Committee but if we here were to decide to do so, it is certainly within our competence to propose dates, perhaps not make a final decision on them, but at the very least to propose dates. I am not entirely sure as to how we proceed. Do we decide here or do we just indicate here at the end of our session when we propose dates for the next session. This is what I insisted on. This is what I stressed during last year's session and at that time I was willing to make a concession but it was a very last concession because members of the Orthodox faith are spread throughout the world. They are not limited to Greece and Cyprus.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from French)*: Thank you distinguished representative of Greece. All I wanted to say was that decision is one made by the Plenary Committee and included in the report which the Plenary Committee prepares for the General Assembly. You could take any previous report and see that it is there at the end of any report.

(Continued in English) I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of The Netherlands.

Mr. _____(?) (Netherlands): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We fully share the point raised by the United Kingdom and France. We also believe that the work that is currently being carried out by this Committee can be done in less time. Having regard to the amount of work undertaken in other international bodies, we believe that this can easily be done in five days, in a week, and we do not need 10 days for the agenda that we have in front of us. So we would support any proposal to shorten the duration of this meeting. I think the proposal of France to give it a try by shortening it just two or three days would be a good start. And following up on the years that we only had eight and a half days at our disposal and at that time we had more issues to discuss and we managed to do that easily within those eight and a half days. So we also would like that to be reflected in the report as suggested by France. I think that these points should be communicated to the rest of the world. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of The Netherlands for your contribution by which you associated your delegation to the suggestion made by France and the United Kingdom and by which you also requested to reflect this opinion in the report of the Subcommittee. Thank you very much.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. _____(?) (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Chairman, thank you. It seems to me that in discussing the issue of a possible shortening of the duration of the session of the Legal Subcommittee, we are forgetting about one very important thing, namely we could be criticized, including by the General Assembly, as we will practically demonstrate that we are not able to come up with a worthy agenda and have not been able to do this for a while now. We have heard a number of critical statements regarding the fact that our agenda is decreasing. We have a decreasing number of substantive issues and this is true and if we now decide we are going to shorten the duration of our meeting, then our Subcommittee might simply turn into an empty formality. So rather than discussing a shortening of the duration of our session, what the delegations should do is focus on coming up with a worthy, substantive agenda. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Russian*): I thank you distinguished representative of the Russian Federation for your contribution to our discussion in which you underscored the importance of focusing, first and foremost, on the substance of our discussion of very important issues and that this was more important than the issue of shortening our sessions and that one should not give priority to the issue of shortening our agenda rather than coming up with a worthy agenda. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not have any other speakers from among the delegations but I have an application from the observer of the International Astronautical Federation to whom I give the floor.

Ms. _____(?) (International Astronautical Federation): Thank you Chairperson. I am speaking in the capacity of the Assistant Secretary to both Directors of the International Institute of Space Law. We thank very much the invitation from the Subcommittee to coordinate a Symposium with the European Centre for Space Law.

With regard to the Symposium, may I inform perhaps the Chairperson and the distinguished delegates of this Subcommittee that a report is actually in progress and this report will be then transmitted to the Secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and will be placed on the website both of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the ISL. This will also be likely put on the website of the European Centre for Space Law. We are also looking into a publication in the Journal of Air and Space Law, that is the Deutsche Zeitschrift from the University of Cologne.

With regard then to dissemination, the issue brought up by the distinguished representatives of Colombia and Greece, we hope that this would be a sufficient dissemination of the information and of the proceedings of the Symposium which will be in full text and are taken together with the general discussions and the comments made later by the speakers of this distinguished Subcommittee. I thank you for your attention Chairperson.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished observer for the International Astronautical Federation that you made in your capacity of Assistant Secretary of the International Institute of Space Law and I think that we may welcome your offer, it means the offer to publish also the report and eventually text in the Air and Space Law Journal, this in the German Zeitschrift Luft und Weltraum _____(?) and I think it will be a very good idea and it will extend the impact of the publication of the documents on the Symposium for the readers of this particular Journal. Thank you very much.

Distinguished delegates, I do not have any other speaker on my list of speakers. Excuse me for a while, I would like to consult with the Deputy Secretary.

Distinguished delegates, observers, I have the following suggestion. We have but eight minutes remaining for us this morning for a discussion but we have here a proposal to add sub-paragraph (c) in agenda item 6, proposed by the distinguished representative of Greece, and we have also some other things to discuss still under the agenda item 13. Therefore, I would like to propose to adjourn the meeting of the Subcommittee and return to all these remaining questions in the afternoon.

Yes, the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Chairman, thank you. As I will have to leave immediately after lunch, will it be possible to now present my proposal. You have the text which I proposed before you and it is up to the Subcommittee to decide. Perhaps I can just present it now and then the Subcommittee.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): You have already presented it.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Yes, but read it. I had promised to provide you with a written version so craving your indulgence, I will read it out. It will take less than half a minute. Do I have the floor Sir?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Have you finished? Yes, but do so, but bear in mind we have but six minutes.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): It will require 30 seconds Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Very well.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): The item is questions relating to little (a), (b), (c), the means to enable equitable access and rational and economic use of other Earth orbits, taking due account of the needs of developing States. Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you indeed distinguished representative of Greece for the text you have just read. We would love to consider it now but as you, yourself, said we do not have enough time to engage in this discussion now. So what I can do now is to ask whether preliminary views on this but I have to finish at 1.00 p.m. precisely.

(*Continued in English*) We have just heard the text of a new sub-paragraph (c) to the point 6 of the proposed agenda for the next session of the Legal Subcommittee and my question now is what is the opinion of the delegations to this particular proposal? The floor is open.

Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of the United States of America.

Mr. _____ (?) (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We will need to

study and absorb this during the lunch period. It does raise a number of significant questions for us, especially given the delicate balancing that went into the current phrasing of agenda item 6(b). So we do have concerns but we will give it more reflection over lunch. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of the United States.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak on this proposal now?

So we have taken note of the opinion and request from the part of the distinguished representative of the United States of America and may I take it that this would be also in agreement with other delegations, we then would postpone further discussion on the proposal made by our distinguished colleague from Greece during this afternoon? Of course, to our regret, if he has to leave, we will be obliged to do it without his presence and it is a pity for us.

I see no objections against this procedure and so we will return to this proposal during this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I now intend to adjourn this meeting, this morning's meeting, and we will be ready to continue in the discussion starting from 3.00 p.m. this afternoon. Thank you very much.

The meeting adjourned at 12.59 p.m.