

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

Unedited transcript

783rd Meeting
Monday, 23 March 2009, 10 a.m.
Vienna

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

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda
(agenda item 1)

The CHAIRMAN. The forty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee is now meeting. Good morning distinguished delegates, I am pleased to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and now declare open the forty-eighth session and the 783rd meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We shall now proceed with the adoption of the agenda for this session.

Adoption of the agenda

Distinguished delegates we have before us for approval and adoption the provisional agenda for the session contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.274. The provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreement reached at the 2008 session of the Committee which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 63/90 of 5 December 2008. Please note that the annotations are not part of the agenda and that there is an indicative schedule of work in the annex of that document.

If I hear no objections may I take it that the agenda is approved, adopted. I see no objection.

It is so decided.

Participation of non-members in the session

Distinguished delegates, I would like to inform the Subcommittee that I have received communications from the Dominican Republic, Israel, Panama, United Arab Emirates and no other delegation, requesting to participate in our meetings as observers. I would therefore suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations to attend the current session and to address the Subcommittee as appropriate. This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decision of the full Committee concerning status. This is a courtesy we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection we will proceed accordingly.

It is so decided.

Programme of work

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to a more detailed consideration of the programme of work for our present session. In accordance with the agenda that we have just adopted, this session of the Legal Subcommittee should consider the following four items as regular agenda items taking into account the concerns of all countries particularly those of developing countries.

The first of these regular items is agenda item 3, general exchange of views, during which delegations may provide general information about their activities related to space law and to highlight any issues that

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.



would be covered in greater detail under the agenda items.

The second regular agenda item is item 4, status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. With respect to agenda item 4, the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its working group on this item under the terms of reference agreed upon by the Subcommittee at its session in 2001. At that session the Subcommittee had agreed that the working group would meet to consider status of the treaties, review of their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as promotion of space law especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

At its forty-first session in 2002, the Legal Subcommittee also agreed that the working group would review any new similar issues that might be raised in discussions in the working group provided those issues are within its existing mandate.

At its forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee in 2008 the working group agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session in 2009, should continue its discussion on the following issues:

- (a) Address activities currently being carried out, or to be carried out, on the Moon and other celestial bodies in the near future;
- (b) Identify the benefits of adherence to the Moon Agreement;
- (c) Identify the international and national rules governing the activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies; and
- (d) Assess whether existing international rules adequately address activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

In addition, the working group agreed to discuss the current state of international space law and possible options for future development as necessary.

At the same session the Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation that the mandate of the working group be extended for one additional year and that the Subcommittee, at its present session, would review the need to extend the mandate of the working group beyond 2009.

The third regular item is agenda item 5, information on the activities of international

organizations relating to space law. Under this item, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to report to the Legal Subcommittee on their activities relating to outer space. The reports that were received from international organizations are contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.275 and Addendum 1 as well as in a conference room paper which will be made available to delegations soon.

The fourth regular item is agenda item 6, matters relating to:

- (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space; and
- (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.

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its working group on this item to consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The working group will have before it the following documents:

1. Questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to outer space objects, replies received from member States, Addendum 17 to the document A/AC.105/635;
2. National legislation and practice relating to definition and delimitation of outer space, Addendum 4 to document A/AC.105/865;
3. Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space, replies from member States, Addenda 2 and 3 to document A/AC.105/889.

The Subcommittee should also consider four single issue items for discussion.

The first single issue/item is agenda item 7, review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. In this regard I would like to inform the Subcommittee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session in February this year, adopted a safety framework of nuclear power sources applications in outer space. The text of the adopted safety framework contained in document

A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.4 will be made available to this session of the Legal Subcommittee.

The second single issue/item for discussion is agenda item 8, 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.

I have been informed that the representative of UNIDROIT will be present at this session and inform the Subcommittee of developments with regard to the draft protocol.

The third single issue/item for discussion is agenda item 9, capacity-building in space law. At its forty-seventh session in 2008 the Subcommittee agreed to retain this item for consideration at its forty-eighth session, document A/AC.105/917, paragraph 150, and recommended that member States, permanent observers of the Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should consider the initiatives listed in paragraph 128 of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session and inform the Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session on any actions taken or planned on a national, regional or international level.

The Subcommittee in 2008 also requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue exploring the possibility of developing a curriculum for a basic course on space law that could be used, in particular, for the benefit of developing countries by initiating space law studies, as appropriate, in the activities of the Regional Centre on Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations. A first preliminary draft of the curriculum will be made available for information purposes to the Subcommittee session in a conference room paper.

The fourth single issue/item for discussion is agenda item 10, general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures. This is a new item on the agenda for this session. As delegations are aware the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/217 of 21 December 2007, endorsed the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The text of the guidelines is contained in the annex to the report of the fiftieth session of the Committee in document A/62/20.

Work plan

Now, something about the work plan. In 2007, the Subcommittee agreed to include general exchange

of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space as an item under a four-year work plan covering the period from 2008 to 2011. This agenda item will be considered as item 11.

The Subcommittee also agreed that a working group should be established to consider that item in 2009, 2010 and, possibly also, 2011. In accordance with the multi-year work plan the Subcommittee should consider at the present session, in a working group, the responses received in order to develop an understanding of the manner in which member States have regulated governmental and non-governmental space activities.

The working group under this item will have before it information received by member States as contained in document A/AC.105/932. In addition the documentation under this item at last year's session of the Subcommittee in 2008 will also be made available to the working group as well as two comprehensive reports by the Secretariat in 2001 under the past agenda item, review of the concept of the launching State. I am confident that this collection of documents will assist the working group in its endeavours.

Finally at this session, the Legal Subcommittee will also consider proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session in 2010. In accordance with the agreed structure of the agenda of the Subcommittee, proposals can be submitted for consideration in the following categories: regular items, single issue/items for discussion one year only and items to be discussed under a multi-year work plan.

Now something about the symposium. A symposium, organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law, will take place on Monday, 23 March, starting at 3 p.m. in this conference room. The title of the symposium is the 30th anniversary of the Moon Agreement, retrospect and prospect. In accordance with the programme of the symposium, which is made available to all delegations, six papers and presentations will be delivered.

Establishment of working groups

Now something about the establishment of the working groups of the Subcommittee.

Distinguished delegates, as I have already mentioned and in accordance with paragraph 6 of the General Assembly resolution 63/20, we should

continue the working group under item 4, status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

May I therefore propose that we now re-establish the working group on this agenda item under the chairmanship of Mr. Vassilis Cassapoglou of Greece who ably led the work of this working group last year.

I see no objections.

It is so decided.

I extend to Mr. Cassapoglou my sincere congratulations and warm wishes for the session of the work this year.

In addition, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 63/80, the Legal Subcommittee will this year reconvene its working group under item 6, only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.

May I therefore propose that we now re-establish the working group on this item under the chairmanship of Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil who ably led the work of this working group last year.

I see no objections.

It is so decided.

I extend to Mr. Monserrat Filho my congratulations and warm wishes for the session of work this year.

In addition, in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 63/90, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee would establish a working group under item 11 on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space in accordance with the multi-year work plan agreed by the Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session and endorsed by the Committee and its fiftieth session.

The Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session, last year, agreed that Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria should serve as the chairperson of this working group.

May I therefore propose that we now establish the working group on this agenda item under the chairmanship of Ms. Irmgard Marboe.

I see no objections.

It is so decided.

I extend to Ms. Marboe my sincere congratulations and warm wishes for the session of work this year.

Organizational matters

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to say a few words concerning the utilization of the conference services made available to our Subcommittee.

You will recall that, in accordance with practice over the past years, the Subcommittee has agreed that a flexible organization of work should continue to serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee. I would once again like to propose that the Subcommittee adopt a similar flexible organization of work to serve as the basis for organizing the work of this present session.

Are there any objections to proceeding in this manner?

I see none.

It is so decided.

I would now like to turn to some organizational matters. General Assembly resolution 32/71 requires that members of each United Nations body be informed, at the beginning of each session, of the resources available to it. I would like to inform you of the arrangements made for this session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Assigned conference meeting rooms are: Conference Room III, Conference Room VII and Rooms C0713, C0727, C0729, C0731, C0733, C0735 and E0951. Simultaneous interpretations are in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Sound recordings will be provided for plenary meetings in the original language and in English.

Please note that, in the annex to resolution 56/242, the General Assembly adopted guidelines on limiting the duration of meetings including the following:

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, namely, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on working days;

(b) Intergovernmental bodies should undertake a review of their meeting patterns and reporting cycles and, in coordination with Conference Service, adjust their meetings request for subsequent sessions accordingly.

In addition to the above, financial and capacity constraints in conference services coincide with the trend of increasing demand for both meetings and documentation services. The existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload. There is a need to adhere more strictly to guidelines on providing interpretation, meetings and documentation services, in particular, ad hoc meetings, informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours or on non-working days will not be serviced. Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficiency measures such as increased out-sourcing, fully electronic document processing, reduced overtime and night shift and intensive editorial report drafting assistance. Therefore close coordination and cooperation between delegations, the substantive secretariat and Conference Service is even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Service will do their best to deliver to us, as they did in the past, timely submission of the in-session documentation. They will deliver as much documentation, in all six official languages, as possible, however, due to the constraints already mentioned, some documentation may only be available for the afternoon closing session, unedited or in English only, depending on how late it was submitted for processing.

On our behalf I would like to assure the Secretariat that they can count on the usual good cooperation and understanding of delegations in keeping submission deadlines. I trust that with that we will bring this session to a successful closing.

I would also like to remind delegates of the General Assembly's request to cut down on the length of reports issued by the Secretariat, including the report of intergovernmental bodies. I would therefore like to inform you that, with regard to the current session of the Subcommittee, the Secretariat will shorten the length of the report in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary-General without affecting its quality or content. I would therefore ask for your kind understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Finally, delegations are requested to turn mobile telephones off when entering any conference room. Mobile phones switched on and on standby seriously interfere with the sound system in conference rooms and hence affect the quality of interpretation and sound

recording. I strongly urge you to please adhere to this request. Thank you.

I would now like to outline a tentative schedule for the next meetings. This morning we shall shortly proceed with the general exchange of views. This afternoon, starting at 3 p.m., the symposium, the 30th anniversary of the Moon Agreement, retrospect and prospect, will be held in this room. The symposium is being co-organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law. I would also like to inform delegates that at 6 p.m., following the symposium, there will be a reception organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law in the Mozart Room at the Vienna International Centre restaurant which is located on the ground floor of F building.

Are there any questions or comments regarding the schedule of work that I have just outlined?

I see none. We will proceed accordingly.

Distinguished delegates, I would now suggest that we begin consideration of item 3 on our agenda: general exchange of views and the first speaker on this item will be the distinguished representative of Japan to whom I give the floor.

General exchange of views (agenda item 3)

Mr. Y. KOMIZO (Japan). Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. ...work under the distinguished scholar who has been an active participant and eye-witness of the beginning of the space law and I wish you every success and rest assured that our cooperation is extended throughout the session.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I am pleased to address the forty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS on behalf of the Japanese Government. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Chairman as well as to Dr. Othman, Director of OOSA and to her capable and devoted staff for their untiring efforts to prepare this session of the Subcommittee.

Since the last session of the Subcommittee several notable events in Japanese space exploration have taken place. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of them.

First, the Diet, our legislative body, passed the basic space law in May last year. This law mandates that Japan's space activities be executed in ways that

promote industry, improve citizen's lives, ensure national security and continue to foster international relationships and cooperation. It also requires further development of the laws and regulations necessary to implement it. The space exploration and utilization ____ (?) under this new basic law will continue to be in accordance with the space-related treaties and pursuant to the ____ (?) principles enshrined in the constitution of Japan.

Based on the basic space law, in August 2003 a strategic headquarters for space development and utilization was established in the cabinet office. The headquarters, led by the Prime Minister, is currently formulating a basic space plan for future space activities which is expected to be finalized next May.

Earlier last year, in April, the Cabinet approved the basic plan for the advancement of utilizing geospatial information and its action plan was established in August 2008. These steps are in line with the increasing awareness of the important role that satellite technology based positional, navigation and timely assistance can play in improving the quality of life and advancing economic and social well-being.

Mr. Chairman, the main objective of Japan's space exploration activities has been to provide the groundwork for a safe and prosperous society. Expansion of its scientific knowledge is also an important aspiration of these activities. With these objectives in mind, Japan has actively been pursuing its space activities and, in the process, it has produced various tangible results.

In regard to space activities, Japan successfully launched two H-IIA rockets in February 2008 and January of this year. Through these launches, Japan increased confidence in advancement in space technologies. In January this year, the fifteenth flight of the H-IIA launch vehicle successfully launched Japan's Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT), also called IBUKI, which will provide high accuracy measurements of greenhouse gases on a global level. Japan expects this GOSAT mission to contribute to the development of a new range of policies for preventing global warming because it not only observes greenhouse gases with high accuracy but also monitors the density of carbon dioxide and methane on the Earth's surface from 56,000 observation points which exceeds the present capacity by about 300 times. Its purpose is to further international efforts in preventing global warming ____ (?) United Nations Environment Programme and Global Earth Observing Systems GEOS ____ (?) earth observation is working to establish.

Furthermore, last year was witness ____ (?) of the Japanese Experiment Module, Kibo, an on-orbit storage facility and main facility for experiments on board the International Space Station. This event also marked the dawn of a new era of Japanese human space exploration.

A space shuttle, launched on 15 March, carried a Japanese astronaut, Mr. Wakata, into space for a three-month-long stay in the International Space Station which is the first long-term stay in space by a Japanese astronaut. ____ (?) docking an external platform experiments to the International Space Station will complete the assembly of Kibo. In addition to these missions, regularly scheduled launches of the H-II transfer vehicle, called H-IIB, are expected to be important in ensuring ____ (?) supplies to the International Space Station especially after retiring the space shuttles. The launch of H-IIB on a re-supply mission is already scheduled to take place sometime this year. We hope that the international community will utilize Kibo and that it becomes a valuable scientific asset for all. The H-IIB launch vehicle is an upgraded version of Japan's current primary large-scale launch vehicle, H-IIA. Its twin engines, in the first stage increases H-IIB's capacity and we expect that it will open the door to greater possibilities for future missions.

As to the lunar orbiting satellite, named KAGUYA, launched in 2007, we successfully completed the planned operation last October. Since then, KAGUYA has entered into an extended mission and is minutely observing in the low altitudes. At present, analysis of the data acquired by KAGUYA is being conducted and full-scale scientific results have started to be published one after another. Examples include the capture of images of the Earth's diamond ring during a penumbral lunar eclipse, the first successful measurements of the Moon's far side gravity field and publishing research reports on observation data in science magazines. We plan to show a DVD demonstration of this during lunchtime on Wednesday this week in this conference room.

Mr. Chairman, Japan has been instrumental in the creation of a system to integrate satellite data into disaster management. Both the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF, and the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters utilize this system. Together with other countries, Japan initiated the Sentinel Asia project which is a disaster management support system in the Asia Pacific region. The Japanese developed earth observation satellite, Daichi, and an Indian satellite, provide the necessary data to operate Sentinel Asia. Currently 51 national

organizations from 20 countries and eight international organizations are involved in operating Sentinel Asia. We intend to actively promote the project to add to the number of satellites and to further increase contributions. We are already planning the development of a satellite as a successor to Daichi, in order to keep making observations.

Mr. Chairman, we continue taking concrete steps towards mitigating space debris, JAXA which plays a major role in space activities in Japan has developed its own space debris mitigation standard. JAXA experts have been invaluable to the work of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and Japan will keep up its efforts in the coming years to mitigate space debris.

Mr. Chairman, Japan is party to ____ (?). Japan ____ (?) and carries out its space activities in accordance with these treaties. Japan will continue to take various steps to address legal aspects emanating from space programmes. These treaties are all the more indispensable in providing the necessary legal order and framework for these activities in the face of the ever-increasing scale of space activities. I would therefore like to reiterate the need to use various forms, including this Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, to call upon countries that are not yet party to these space-related conventions to ____ (?) them as soon as possible. Japan will support such initiatives of COPUOS to this end.

Mr. Chairman, the very important mandate bestowed on this COPUOS Legal Subcommittee is to generate discussion on the legal aspect of space programmes ____ (?) in order to ensure that all activities are carried out in a free and fair manner. Japan as one of the leading countries in outer space activities will continue to value the activities of this Subcommittee and work closely as a member of the team in order for the Subcommittee to efficiently and effectively achieve its goals.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Excellency, distinguished ambassador of Japan for the presentation of your statement which was full of important announcements and, at the same time, you have taken a position on the issues that will be under discussion of the Subcommittee. I also, on behalf of the Director of the Office and all the staff and also myself, thank you for your kind words that you addressed to the Chair.

I believe that from your statement, which was of course full of different important ideas, we as the Legal

Subcommittee should welcome that your Diet, your legislative body, passed the basic space law, this is certainly a contribution to the development that we follow in this Subcommittee. We also listened very carefully to the outcomes of your efforts in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, some of them are really outstanding. We follow with great interest your projects, Kaguya of course, which is very interesting, very important and it will be developed further. We also welcome that you made concrete steps towards mitigating space debris by adopting your space debris mitigation standards and by the efforts of JAXA. I would like, once again, to thank you for your statement.

The next speaker on my list of speakers for this morning is the distinguished representative of China, Ambassador Guoqiang Tang, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. TANG (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*). Mr. Chairman, at the outset please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to express our pleasure at seeing you again presiding over the Legal Subcommittee session as its Chairman. I am convinced that, under your guidance and with a joint effort of all delegates, this session will successfully accomplish its tasks.

Mr. Chairman, the past year was dazzlingly eventful for China's space effort with 11 successful launches, which is a new annual launch record. A Chinese astronaut walked in space in September 2008, marking a significant step in China's pursuit of manned space flight.

One Moon probe accomplished all its scientific expedition tasks and bumped into the Moon on 1 March 2009 as planned, thus putting a successful full stop to phase 1 of China's moon orbiting and probing project.

Now phase 2 of the Moon probe project has officially commenced and a new generation of launch vehicles, as well as Mars probes and space labs, are already under research and development. China will continue to make contributions to the great cause of human exploration of outer space.

In the area of space application, the Chinese government has been very active in employing space science and technology to advance social development. As the strong earthquake struck Wenchuan last year, the Government used satellites to provide surveillance data on the aftermath and services such as communication, navigation and positioning in the ensuing rescue and relief operations.

Throughout the Beijing Olympic Games, Chinese meteorological satellites rendered sound and reliable meteorological services.

As Australia was fighting the forest fire in February this year, China put large quantities of environment and disaster relief related satellite data and products at its disposal displaying the spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance in an hour of need.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese Government has always stood for the peaceful use of outer space and abide by all fundamental principles embodied in the five United Nations treaties on outer space in conducting its space activities and remains a strong advocate of creating harmony in outer space. China believes that it is the five space treaties that regulate activities of States in outer space, constitute the legal framework which governs space exploration and utilization, guarantee the right course to follow in human exploration and use of outer space and constitute the core and bedrock of space law system.

Meanwhile we should also recognize the fact that the ongoing expansion of human activities in outer space and the profuse uses of the means of space have brought us face to face with new problems and increasing challenges, among which the most outstanding is the issue of space weaponization and a space arms race. The existing space treaties, though laying down the basic principles of peaceful uses, lack clear-cut and implementable legal rules to prevent space weaponization and a space arms race. In our view, it is befitting the international community to discuss the formulation of new legal instruments which will establish a legal basis for diffusing the real threat to outer space security. China is ready to collaborate actively with other member States in this respect and would like to reiterate the view that the formulation of whatever new rules should not run counter to the objectives and principles of the five existing space treaties nor shift the foundation of the space law system.

Mr. Chairman, outer space is the province of all mankind, its exploration and utilization should benefit the humanity as a whole, following the principles of equality, mutual benefit, peaceful use and common development. China has, in the past year, carried out practical and effective international cooperation with other countries particularly developing countries in space activities. China and quite a number of countries have set up joint space cooperation committees and some cooperation projects are currently underway such as, China-Russia Joint Mars Probe, China-Brazil

resource satellites No. 3 and 4, China-EU Double Star Project and the Moon probe cooperation project.

On 16 December 2008, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization formerly came into being in Beijing which serves as an important platform for cooperation among countries in the Asia and Pacific region. The Chinese Government lends strong support to the work of this Organization and urges countries in Asia and the Pacific to enhance exchanges and cooperation in utilizing outer space for peaceful purposes. We welcome more countries to join this Organization.

The Chinese Government is also working very closely with UNOOSA in an effort to start the operation of the UN-Spider office in Beijing as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese Government appreciates highly the work of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS and OOSA in strengthening the space legal regime and supports the greater role they are playing in fostering capacity-building in space law in favour of developing countries implementing Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and formulating legal provisions on space assets financing. China will join other countries in a bid to create a peaceful and stable space environment under the rule of law.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Excellency, distinguished ambassador of China for your statement and I have listened carefully to this statement. I watched that China reached an annual record of launchings, this is certainly an evidence of the development of space activities and technology in your country.

We also heard this full support that China is attaching to the five United Nations treaties and to China's efforts to work for increasing the number of States Parties to the five United Nations space treaties.

We also recorded that your notes about new programmes in the development of space law and the need for new legal instruments, particularly in the field of outer space security. We also listened to a summary of the cooperation project that you have concluded with other nations and also China's cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations, particularly in the establishment of a centre for UN-Spider projects. Thank you very much once again for your statement.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. P. HAVLIK (Czech Republic). Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic I intend to offer some observations on the principle agenda items of this year's session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee but, prior to doing this, let me express my satisfaction at seeing you again in the Chair of this session.

During the first year of your biennium 2008-2009 you demonstrated a high ability to guide the work of the Subcommittee which has been based on a long experience and this is why we are convinced that you will also continue successfully during the second year of your term. Our full satisfaction is also addressed to the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Madam Mazlan Othman, to the Secretary of the Subcommittee, Mr. Niklas Hedman, and to all the staff members of the United Office for Outer Space Affairs who assist the Legal Subcommittee in its deliberations.

As already emphasized in our earlier statement, the delegation of the Czech Republic considers as the prime goal of COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee to strengthen the legal basis for space activities by increasing the number of States and international organizations adhering to the UN space treaties. Our delegation also finds it important to pave the way to widening the present space legal regime by further agreements in this field. This is why we attach a great significance to the deliberations on the item, status and application of the five UN space treaties in the working group headed by Dr. Vassilis Cassapoglou of Greece. We are particularly interested in the discussions on the five UN space treaties, the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. In this respect, we appreciate the initiative of seven States parties to the Agreement which submitted last year a joint statement on the adherence to the 1979 Agreement and thus offered a useful basis for considering this subject matter.

Definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit has been on the agenda of the Subcommittee for many years without more visible outcomes. Due to the continuing efforts of the Chairman of the working group, Professor José Monserrat Filho of Brazil, a new impetus has been given to this discussion. As particularly interesting we have considered his idea to organize, in the framework of the working group, a scientific meeting at which presentations, by interested member States on their positions regarding this issue,

could be explained in a greater detail. Though a consensus of this suggestion was not reached at the last session of the Subcommittee, further efforts could still be made this year ____ (?) that could bring some positive results in further discussions on this item.

Mr. Chairman, for several years the topic, use nuclear power sources in outer space has been on the agendas of both COPUOS subcommittees. However, many delegations to the Legal Subcommittee have understood that any progress on this subject much depends on positive results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. This is why our delegation, in both subcommittees, expected with hope that the efforts of the joint expert group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency which worked on the development of a technically based framework of the goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power sources applications in outer space, would be successful. The working group accomplished its task at this year's session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in our opinion the positive outcomes of these discussions enable the Legal Subcommittee to increase the level of its discussions on the item, review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, with due regard to Principle 11 of the 1992 Principles.

Mr. Chairman, this year the Subcommittee has to continue its consideration of item, capacity-building in space law. The up-to-date discussion brought a list of activities which could strengthen the capacities in space law, particularly in favour of developing countries. The Czech Republic replied to the inquiry of the Secretariat in this regard and indicated its preferences to the specific measures included in that list.

Our delegation also welcomes the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to finalize the development of a draft curriculum for a basic course of space law and to continue, in a series of workshops on space law, in cooperation with the host countries to disseminate the knowledge related to international and national space law.

Mr. Chairman, last year the Legal Subcommittee started its discussion on a new item under a multi-year work plan namely, general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. This year, the Subcommittee should establish a working group that would examine the responses received from States on their national legislation in

order to develop an understanding of the manner in which member States have regulated governmental and non-governmental space activities. It will be an essential part of the work plan, this is why our delegation welcomes that the Subcommittee already decided to appoint Professor Irmgard Marboe of Austria as the chairperson of the working group and we wish her full success in this important task.

Mr. Chairman, on this year's agenda of the Legal Subcommittee a fresh single issue for discussion also appears namely, general exchange of information on national mechanisms related to space debris mitigation measures. The delegation of the Czech Republic welcomes this step. After the adoption of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS, it is quite logical to engage the Legal Subcommittee in the consideration of the difficult and impending problem of the mitigation of space debris. The recent events in space, in our opinion, have confirmed that the legal aspects of the mitigation of space debris should not be left aside.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished representative of the Czech Republic for your statement in which you commented the important aspects of our agenda, the main item that will be discussed during this particular session.

I watched particularly that the Czech Republic supports the need for strengthening the legal basis for space activities by increasing the number of States and international organizations adhering to the UN space treaties.

Also, your comment on the working groups' tasks and on the forthcoming consideration of their agenda has been emphasized in your statement.

Finally, you also addressed particularly the new working group ____ (?) item that will be ____ (?) under our discussion in accordance with the multi-year work plan. Finally, also, your support for the discussion on a new single issue/item for discussion, this general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures.

I thank you also, on behalf of all members of the Chair here, for your kind words addressed to the Chair and I apologize to the distinguished representative of China, I forgot to thank him also for such kind words, I am doing it now. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, we will continue in our discussion on the agenda item, general exchange of views and I have on my list of speakers the distinguished representative of Ukraine. You have the floor.

Ms. C. HAYOVYSHYN (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*). Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Ukrainian delegation I would like to present our respectful greetings to you and to express our conviction that our work here, in the forty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee, can be successful.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, we would like, under this agenda item, to share some information with you about the most recent events in Ukrainian outer space activity. Indeed, the Ukrainian State scientific and technical outer space programme for 2008-2012 has now been set, this is the fourth programme since the creation of our independent State. This is especially targeting the proper establishment and regulation of our partnership and cooperative efforts with other space-faring nations and international organizations.

Measures to develop EU partnership cooperation and cooperation with ESA have been developed on the basis of our efforts to create proper conditions for the development of such European relations. This was based on a framework agreement between the Government of Ukraine and ESA which was signed on 25 January 2008. We have also signed another framework agreement with ESA and that was very important as well as a framework agreement with the German Aerospace Center as well.

We have also, with regard to our cooperative agreements in cooperation with the United States, signed a framework agreement with the United States thereby establishing the legal basis for the development of cooperation between American-Ukrainian companies.

In 2008 also an agreement between our scientific National Aerospace Agency in the Ukraine and the American Orbital Sciences Corporation was signed for administrative, scientific and organizational support of Ukrainian company involvement in the development of the Taurus II rocket centre. This enabled a business contract to be signed.

As concerns our cooperation with the Russian Federation, this has especially been targeting the Russian initiative of developing one single navigation time space and this on the basis of GLONASS efforts and other global satellite navigation system

development efforts. Indeed, upon Russian initiative a draft intergovernmental agreement on cooperation between Russia and Ukraine is going to be signed in the first half of this year and this also targeting GLONASS efforts.

We are also continuing work on something very important for international cooperation and here I am referring to the Cyclone-4 international project, this is of key importance and involves our cooperation with Brazil. We have developed a launch vehicle for this purpose, we have developed technological equipment for the land Cyclone-4 base and for the Alcantara rocket centre and we have developed launch vehicle industrial production facilities.

We have also developed our work with Egypt and Indonesia and we certainly hope that we are going to be continuing our work on the development of international legislation, we believe that it is very important for us to do this. We are very attached to the development of international law however, we would like to say that it is important for us to recognize that international outer space treaties have served us long and well and we are very attached to the good guidelines that they set for State activities in this regard. However, we do believe that these provisions do require certain extensive modification and expansion.

Indeed, given the very strong case of development of technologies and techniques in outer space and the relative stability of space law over such a long period of time, there is a certain degree of legal ambivalence which has appeared both in aerospace as well as in outer space. This must be remedied. We believe that significant useful progress can be registered with regard to delimitation issues if we work together with ICEO on this matter. It is necessary for us to recognize the broad commercialization, privatization of outer space activity, the diversification of its forms and we must admit the given fact that, for decades long, there has been relative immutability in stability of outer space law. The role of national outer space legislation has gained in importance necessarily and we have, indeed, in Ukraine, developed our legislation significantly. We were among the very first, 12 years ago, to create a national law on outer space activities, this on 15 November 1996 and, since then, we have fine-tuned and developed ever so many institutions which ensure proper regulation, harmonization with international law and we have a very important State law which, at present, is going to be revised, that is in the pipeline. We have a whole body of decrees, decisions, regulations, orders, interagency acts, standards and norms, which all are

part and parcel of our Ukrainian national outer space legislation.

We would like, in concluding, to assure you that we are going to be working hand-in-hand with you on furthering the development of space law and its impact on the well-being of all human kind.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Russian*). The Chairman takes this opportunity to thank the Ukrainian delegation for its extremely effective and very speedy ____ (?) of Ukrainian national legislation in this regard. We would have indeed noted especially that one of the important elements that you have emphasized is ensuring the development of international cooperative efforts in the field of outer space.

You have given us the benefit of ever so many examples of Ukrainian activities and framework agreements with partner countries including the United States of America, Germany, inter alia, and you have also referred to the cooperative agreement with the European Space Agency in this regard.

I have listened with considerable interest the fact that information on Ukrainian national legislative activity is accessible and that it is continuing well. We certainly hope that Ukraine would pursue its efforts to develop cooperative work on yet further aspects of outer space activities. Thank you very much for your statement.

(*continued in English*). ... on the agenda item, general exchange of views, will be the distinguished representative of Thailand. You have the floor, Excellency.

Mr. A. PANUPONG (Thailand). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank UNOOSA and the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee to allow me to say a few words in this meeting. I would like also to express my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, ____ (?) for the great performance during this meeting.

On behalf of the Thai delegation, I am pleased to inform the meeting that, Thailand Earth Observation Satellite, THEOS, was successfully launched into orbit on 1 October 2008. The initial result shows that ____ (?) provided by the satellite are of good geometric and radiometric performance with ____ (?) resolution of 2 metres for panchromatic and 15 metres for multi-spectral bands. Moreover, Thailand has already

completed the process of registration of THEOS with UNOOSA in January 2009.

Since the launching of THEOS, Thailand's Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, GISTDA, has been enhanced significantly to become a one-stop service provider of earth observation satellite data. Moreover, GISTDA internationally cooperate with a number of countries and international entities in space technology and geo-informatics and seek closer partnerships ____ (?) acquisition and distribution worldwide.

In addition, I would like to inform the meeting of the cooperation of an SMMS project which was jointly developed by China and Thailand. The SMMS or Small Multimission Satellite, was successfully launched in September 2008 from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, China. The overall performance of the SMMS can be judged and measured by the payload features of its component satellites, such as Revisit time intervals of the satellites, coverage scales of the CCD Cameras and Infrared Scanners, and the observation opportunities.

The SMMS also carries a KA-band communication experimental payload. This satellite would benefit all the Asia Pacific countries participating in the programme and make major contributions to disaster mitigation and environmental protection. Thailand has confidence that the SMMS project would benefit the regional economy and facilitate the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, ____ (?) of new developments in space technology and the increasing commercial exploitation of outer space, especially in telecommunications and space tourism, has an undeniable potential to become really lucrative in the foreseeable future. Demands for launch services have substantially increased consequently, given ____ (?) nature of the launching services, ____ (?) legal issue of where space ends and outer space begins can no longer be swept aside as not being an urgent matter because it can have a crucial bearing on the ability of the launching State and that of the insurance company. As a result, it is necessary to give clear-cut criteria on definition and delimitation of outer space.

In regard to the registration of space objects, there are a number of legal issues in space law and practical problems that are unclear and need to be clarified. For instance, in the case where the entire satellite system has been sold to another satellite operator in another country. Where does the satellite in question need to be registered? In the name of the

purchasing country? And, whether in such circumstances the transferring country would cease to be regarded as the launching State, according to space law.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished ambassador of Thailand for your general statement on behalf of your country on this item.

I would like to say that I very carefully watched your information about the Thailand Earth Observation Satellite, THEOS, which was successfully launched into orbit last year, in October. Also, I watched with great interest your information about the cooperation in SMMS projects that you have been jointly developing together with China.

I also believe with you that the SMMS project will benefit the regional economy and facilitate the peaceful uses of outer space.

Finally, I also took into account some comments that you presented on the need for the definition and delimitation of outer space and Earth space and, as you were emphasizing, that it would be necessary to give clear-cut criteria for definition and delimitation of outer space. This is, of course, the question that will be discussed in our special working group on this particular subject.

Finally, I also took into account some comments that you made on new needs in regard to the registration of space objects, and I would like also to thank you for your kind words addressed to the Chair.

Distinguished delegates I have now on my list of speakers the distinguished representative of Austria, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. T. LOIDL (Austria). Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, let me express the satisfaction of the Austrian delegation to have you chairing the forty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee. We are confident that our work during this session will again greatly benefit from your skills and your profound experience.

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman and her able and dedicated team for the invaluable assistance to the Subcommittee, including in the preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman, at its forty-seventh session the Legal Subcommittee, under the item, status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, addressed the low number of ratifications of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and, in a joint statement, the States parties to the Moon Agreement identified substantial benefits of adherence to this agreement.

At the forty-seventh session it was also agreed that the discussion on the low number of ratifications of the Moon Agreement should continue at the current session. We very much look forward to this discussion with a view to identify the benefits of adherence to the Agreement, to identify the rules governing activities on the Moon and also with a view to assess whether these rules adequately address activities on the Moon.

Mr. Chairman, as one of the States having ratified all of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, Austria could consider to amend the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies while, at the same time, preserving the basic legal concepts of this instrument. In our view, this could contribute to increase adherence to the Agreement and would strengthen the United Nations treaties on outer space and international space law as a whole.

In this context, Austria would like to express its gratitude to the organizers of this year's symposium on the prospects of the Moon Agreement on its thirtieth anniversary and we look forward to an inspiring discussion this afternoon.

Mr. Chairman, having mentioned that Austria has ratified all of the five treaties on outer space, let me underline that we are mindful of our international legal obligations with regard to space activities conducted by public or private entities. In particular, we would like to emphasize the principle overarching the United Nations treaties on outer space that all space activities are to be conducted for peaceful purposes.

This brings me to an important space project for Austria. The Technical University of Graz, in cooperation with the Technical University of Vienna and the University of Toronto, conducted a research project to investigate the brightness of massive luminous stars by differential photometry. In the framework of this research project, the first Austrian satellite, scheduled to be launched next year, is currently being assembled and equipped. The satellite is known as Bright Target Explorer and will be used to observe stars of high mass. Scientists hope that data on

their vibrations may reveal new insights into the composition of these stars as well as into the chemical evolution of the universe. The research project and the construction of the Bright Target Explorer constitute for Austria, in a technical but also in a legal sense, a new era in space.

With the development of the Bright Target Explorer and its prospective launch next year, the need arose to develop national rules on space law and national legislation is currently being developed by the relevant authorities. We gained important insight for the development of our own rules during last year's exchange of information and national legislation from the presentation by several States of their own legislation and we look forward to continue this exchange under item 11 of our agenda.

Mr. Chairman, the last few years have witnessed an enormous growth in the number of satellites put into orbit as the international community increasingly rely on satellites for civil, military and commercial purposes. At the same time, the Earth's orbits are increasingly crowded and, after many thousand traceable objects, less than a thousand are active satellites, the rest is debris in varying sizes that threatens the use of entire orbits for very long periods of time.

Recent incidents, like the brief evacuation of the personnel of the International Space Station into the escape capsule as the Space Station was threatened by a tiny piece of debris, underline the threat this debris poses to space objects and humans in space as well as the use of valuable orbits. In our view there is an urgent need to further address this issue and we consider the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, developed in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 62/217, as an important first step in the development of appropriate solutions.

Austria, therefore, welcomes the new item on our agenda this year on the exchange of information relating to space debris mitigation measures and we look forward to the discussion under item 10.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding, allow me to emphasize that the Austrian delegation will continue to provide strong support to the work and the deliberations of the Subcommittee as well as to the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In this spirit we hope for a productive and rewarding forty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished representative of Austria for your statement. I would like also to thank you for the kind words addressed to the Director of the Office and her able and dedicated team as you quoted and also your kind words directed to myself.

I welcome that you have mentioned some important aspects of the forthcoming discussion in the working group on the status of the outer space treaties and particularly on the present status of the 1979 Moon Agreement. I remember that it was Austria which, as the fifth ratifying country, was instrumental in entering into force of that fifth United Nations space treaty, the Moon Agreement.

I also watched with great interest your information about the international cooperation project that Austria is developing and also the preparations for the Austrian satellite launching in 2010, the satellite which is known as Bright Target Explorer, and its main features and possible contribution to technical and also legal development of space activities.

Finally, I also welcome your attitude with the position of Austria in relation to the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and to the forthcoming discussion, in the Legal Subcommittee, on national measures for the mitigation of the generation of space debris. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, I do not have any other country on my list of speakers thus far for this morning's session. Is there any other delegation wishing to speak now on this agenda item, general exchange of views? Of course, we will continue this discussion this afternoon and tomorrow morning. Tomorrow morning is the last opportunity to intervene in this general exchange of views so please take it into due consideration.

I see no other speaker on the general exchange of views this morning therefore I would now like to inform you that I have received a request from the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the opportunity to briefly address the Legal Subcommittee in the time left for this morning's meeting. Therefore, if there are no objections I would like to give the floor at this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and, on behalf of the Legal Subcommittee, invite her to deliver her statement. I see no objections, I give the floor to Ms. Mazlan Othman.

Ms. M. OTHMAN (Director, OOSA). Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it is a true pleasure to welcome you as Chairman of the Legal

Subcommittee again and to see you presiding over this session. I am certain that, under your guidance, this will be a very productive session and I want to assure you of the full support of my colleagues and I.

I am grateful for this opportunity to address the Legal Subcommittee in order to review the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs relating to international space law over the last year and to touch on plans for the future.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, during the last year the Office continued to discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and of the United Nations treaties on outer space.

With regard to the United Nations Register on Objects Launched into Outer Space, maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the 1976 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in the past year Australia, Canada, China, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela, furnished information on the space objects under the Registration Convention and resolution 1721 B. Information received has been circulated to all members and can be found in document series ST/SG/SER.E/1-559 and A/AC.105/INF.1-419 respectively. The registration documents and an online index of objects launched into outer space can be found on the Office website which continues to be updated.

In addition, Greece, Belgium, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea notified the United Nations of the establishment of their national registry of space objects in accordance with article II of the Registration Convention. The information received was circulated to all member States in the document ST/SG/SER.E/INF.22-23.

As delegates are aware, the Committee's work relating to registration practices concluded successfully in the year 2007 with the General Assembly adopting resolution 62/101 on recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international governmental organizations in registering space objects. It is my pleasure to inform that the efforts of the Subcommittee in this regard is already having a positive impact. Since ____ (?) relating to the registration of space objects was reaffirmed in that resolution, the Office has been working proactively with member States and intergovernmental organizations to support the implementation of the Registration Convention. The Office's work in this area is contributing to States

harmonizing registration practices and a renewed interest by other States relating to the registration of space objects is becoming apparent. In addition, the Office is finalizing the registration pamphlet that will facilitate the harmonization of registration practices and is working towards establishing the network of national focal points. The pamphlet will be made available to States and intergovernmental organizations shortly.

With regard to the national focal points, the Office would like to take this opportunity to invite member States and relevant international governmental organizations maintaining a registry of objects launched into outer space, to submit their contact details to the Office. The Office would also be pleased to receive the web address of online national registries that could be placed on the Office's website in accordance with the resolution.

Finally, the Office would like to once again encourage all member States who have launched and/or operate space objects to register them with the Secretary-General in accordance with the Registration Convention of General Assembly resolution 171 B (XVI).

The Office would also like to draw member States attention to article II of the Registration Convention requesting parties to inform the Secretary-General of the establishment of national registries and invites parties, that have not done so, to inform the Office accordingly. The Office stands ready to assist member States on matters relating to the registration of space objects.

Mr. Chairman, the Office continues to discharge other responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under the legal regime governing activities in outer space. In particular, disseminating information provided by member States under the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement and the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. To effectively fulfil those obligations, the Office continuously monitors launches and decays of space objects and maintains a 24/7 hotline to respond to queries on re-entry of space objects.

The Office also serves as a United Nations focal point on re-entry of nuclear powered space objects for the Joint Radiation Emergency Management plan of the international organizations. In this capacity, the Office maintains close contact with the Incident and Emergency Response Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency which is the coordinating

entity for the plan and provides notification of nuclear powered space objects.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as has become customary, the Office has updated the status of the United Nations treaties on outer space. The insert to the treaty booklet, ST/SPACE/11/Rev.2/Add.2, contains information as of 1 January 2009 and States Parties and additional signatories to the United Nations treaties and other international agreements relating to activities in outer space.

I am pleased to inform that a welcome milestone to the Outer Space Treaty, the one hundred State Party of the Treaty was reached very recently with the accession of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in March 2009. In addition, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also acceded to the Registration Convention on 10 March 2009. With that, the Outer Space Treaty now has 100 State Parties and 26 signatory States; the Rescue Agreement has 19 States Parties and 24 signatory States; the Liability Convention, 87 States Parties and 23 signatory States; the Registration Convention, 52 States Parties and 4 signatory States; and the Moon Agreement, 13 States Parties and 4 signatory States.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that the Czech Republic ratified the ESA Convention on 12 November 2008 and thus became a full member of the European Space Agency.

Mr. Chairman, under its capacity-building programme on space law, the Office continues to promote the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, to support the exchange of information on national space law and policy and to encourage the increase of education ____ (?) in space law.

Currently, the Office is preparing for the holding of this year's workshop on space law with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian Space Agency. Tentatively the workshop is planned to be held in Iran in November 2009.

Last year, the Subcommittee noted with appreciation that, in response to its request ____ (?), the Office for Outer Space Affairs had organized, in Vienna in December 2007, an experts meeting on promoting education in space law. The Subcommittee took note of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the experts meeting on promoting education in space law in document A/AC.105/908 and expressed its appreciation to the

educators and representatives of the regional centres on space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, who are continuing to develop a draft curriculum for a basic course in space law. A first preliminary draft of the curriculum will be circulated for the information of the Subcommittee of this session. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the group of experts involved in this endeavour and look forward to continued successful cooperation in the finalization of the curriculum.

In addition, the Office has updated the directory of education opportunities in space law. As you well know, the directory contains information on the respective institution's areas of specialization, the educational programmes offered, the facilities available, the prerequisite qualifications, financial information, fellowship opportunities and opportunities for international cooperation as well as references to educational materials easily available on the Internet and addresses and contact points. The 2009 edition of the directory will be before you in document A/AC.105/C.2/2009/CRP.4 and will be placed on the website of the Office. It is hoped that this directory will assist member States and will promote cooperation among member States and educational institutions in relation to space law. In particular, it is hoped that information on education opportunities will assist developing countries in establishing indigenous capabilities in space law.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in 2008 the Office continued to be called upon to provide advice on international space law and legal issues relating to activities in outer space.

The Office also continued to strengthen cooperation with space law entities and organizations with a view to contributing to worldwide efforts to promote understanding and the development of space law. The Office fulfilled this role, within the limits of its capacity, in response to various requests and queries.

In that regard, the Office participated in a regional seminar on space law hosted by the Government of Ecuador in August 2008.

The Office also participated in the European Centre for Space Law summer school in September 2008.

I am also pleased to inform delegations that the Office continues its cooperative activities with the Institute of Air and Space Law at Cologne University and the loose-leaf collection ____ (?) called Space Law:

Basic Legal Documents. Instalment 13 was published in October 2008 and instalment 14 is planned to be published within the summer of 2009.

As regards promoting the application of international law in providing technical assistance to have governments implement ____ (?) on outer space treaties, the Office will continue to provide legal advisory support to member States within its available resources.

Mr. Chairman, the Office is pleased to inform the Subcommittee that it continues to update its space law dedicated webpages, thus providing member States with reference tools, such as the online index of objects launched into outer space, the national space law database and the treaty status database. The website also provides texts of the treaties and relevant General Assembly resolutions and documents in all official languages of the United Nations. The Office would like to take this opportunity to invite member States to continue providing text on international space law and policies for inclusion on the website.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to other matters of the Office. Since the last session of the Subcommittee, the Office has experienced a number of staff movements. The Chief of the Space Applications Section and UN expert on Space Applications, Ms. Alice Lee, retired on 14 January 2009 after overseeing the work of the section for five years. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours with NASA. Within the UN-SPIDER programme, the Office is pleased to welcome Mr. Loran Czarán of Romania, Mr. Juan Carlos Villagrán of Guatemala and Mr. ____ (?) of India. Mr. Czarán is serving as the head of the UN-SPIDER Bonn office. Furthermore, the UN-SPIDER team in Bonn is benefiting from the services of Mr. Peter Stumpf, an associate expert funded by the Government of Germany. Mr. Tony ____ (?) an associate expert provided by the Republic of Korea is serving his second year with the UN-SPIDER team in Vienna. Mr. ____ (?) an associate expert in programme management, funded by Austria, will be completing his two-year assignment with the UN-SPIDER programme in Vienna this week. Mr. ____ (?) made extremely valuable contributions to the establishment and implementation of UN-SPIDER and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours. Mr. Martin Walter Huber who served with UN-SPIDER from May 2008 to February 2009 has returned to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Romana Koffler, who joined the Committee's Services and Research Section of the Office in October

2006, is currently on maternity leave until 30 September 2009. Ms. ____ (?), a lawyer from Peru is now filling that post.

Ms. Letitia Rodriguez, who served with the UN-SPIDER team in Vienna from May 2008 to December 2008, has now returned to the Committee's Services and Research Section.

Finally, I am pleased to inform delegations that one of our legal officers, Ms. ____ (?), was appointed in February as UNOV's Senior Legal Liaison Officer as interim. Ms. ____ (?) is expected to serve in that capacity until the end of this year and we would like to wish her well and every success in this new challenge.

On matters relating to the Office's programme, planning and budget, I am pleased to report that, following the recommendation of the Committee on Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its forty-eighth session held from 9 June to 3 July 2008, the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/63/247 endorsed the recommendations of the CPC relating to the Office's strategic framework for 2010-2011. We were pleased to note that members of the CPC expressed their support for the programme and that the work of the Office and its benefits, particularly to developing countries, were recognized and commended. The Office's strategic framework for 2010-2011 and the CPC recommendation will be circulated to all delegations during the course of this session.

At the resource level, I regret to inform the Subcommittee that in the next biennium the Office will not be in a position to implement the full breadth of its activities due to a budget cut that will take effect at the beginning of 2010. All United Nations departments and offices were requested to cut their overall regular budgetary resources by 2 per cent to make additional funding available for the Organization's 2010-2011 priorities. Although the Office will be taking measures to mitigate the consequences as much as possible, the Office's activities relating to capacity-building in space law will feel the impact of this expected budgetary cut. The Office's budget and programme ____ (?) has been finalized and is expected to be reviewed by the relevant budgetary bodies later this year. The Office will inform the Subcommittee on any further developments in this regard at the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in June 2009.

Mr. Chairman before concluding, I would like to inform you that the Office has developed its operational priorities for 2009-2011 which have been approved by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Office at Vienna. Taking its guidance from the

Secretary-General's strategic framework document for 2010-2011, the strategic framework for OOSA's priorities embodies principles of engagement that focus on capitalizing ____ (?) solutions for sustainable development and ____ (?) State government and operating principles that centre on delivering ____ (?) and strengthening our performance and accountability.

The operational priorities of the Office from 2009 to 2011, some of which are predetermined by its mandates and programme activities and some guided by the United Nations agenda under its development ____ (?) include, inter alia, strengthening the intergovernmental process, discharging the responsibilities of the Secretary-General, supporting sustainable development with a focus on climate change, tele-epidemiology, tele-health and building indigenous capability in basic space technology. Securing global goods through the UN-SPIDER programme, the work of ICG and the global array of space weather instruments and enhancing cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system.

To reinforce these operational priorities, the Office has drawn up a forward looking list of strategic partners whose activities we will support through fellowships and grants in the period 2009-2011. To strengthen management, we have put in place mechanisms that increase coherence and coordination of the planned work of the Office, ____ (?) lessons learnt and enhance accountability. Indeed, as we now enter a period of reduced resources, a strategic plan that looks three to five years ahead, having at its core priorities ____ (?) areas of importance to the Committee, is indeed imperative. To achieve this, we look forward to continue to receive guidance from this august body in mapping the way forward.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, let me reaffirm our Office's commitment to serving the interest of member States in the area of space law.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for her informative statement. I appreciate very much that this statement involved a rich enumeration of events and achievements that have been done during the last year and that are still expected to continue in the near future.

I do not intend to comment on this statement which speaks for itself but I particularly welcome the announcement that a milestone to the Outer Space Treaty, the one-hundredth State Party to the Treaty was

reached. It is indeed a major achievement and it will encourage all of us to continue in our efforts to draw the attention of further prospective parties to this Treaty and other treaties of the United Nations dealing with space measures.

Distinguished delegates, unless I see any of you wishing to say something to this morning's meeting, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee. Before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon. When speaking about the continuation of our general exchange of views, I made a mistake, this afternoon there will be no general exchange of views because we have reserved this afternoon fully for the symposium. Tomorrow there will still be two more meetings, in the morning and in the afternoon on the subject of general exchange of views. I have to warn you that this will be the last opportunity to speak on this particular item, tomorrow morning and tomorrow afternoon, so those delegations wishing to make a statement on the item, general exchange of views, are kindly requested to prepare their statements and to present them tomorrow.

We will be this afternoon meeting promptly at 3 p.m. I will then suspend the meeting of the Subcommittee to allow time for the symposium.

The 784th meeting of the Subcommittee will be immediately adjourned and will be suspended and then after the symposium the Subcommittee will be adjourned at the conclusion of the symposium.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule? I see none.

As a final announcement, I would like to inform delegations that the provisional list of participants for this Subcommittee session will be distributed in the first half of the week. I would request all delegations that have not done so already to send an official letter with the names of the representatives to the Secretariat as soon as possible, so they can be included on this provisional list of participants.

So, no other application for discussion, therefore the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

The meeting closed at 12.17 p.m.