

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

Unedited transcript

803rd Meeting

Monday, 22 March 2010, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. V. Kopal (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.19 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I am pleased to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and now declare open the 49th session and the 803rd meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all aware, the Subcommittee will shortly elect its Chair for a two-year term in accordance with the agreement reached at the fifty-second session of the Committee. With the Subcommittee's permission, I will continue to preside over this meeting until the new Chair has been duly elected, at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair.

However, before commencing with the election of its Chair, the Subcommittee should adopt its agenda for the session.

We shall now proceed with the adoption of the agenda.

We have before us, for approval and adoption, the provisional agenda for the session contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.277. The provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreement reached at the 2009 session of the Committee which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/86 of 10 December 2009.

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 adopted?

It is so decided.

Election of officers

I would now like to turn to the election of the Chair.

I wish to inform delegations that in paragraph 43 of its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the Bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period of 2010 and 2011 and agreed that the Committee and its Subcommittees should elect their officials at their respective sessions in 2010 in accordance with that composition.

I would also like here for delegations that the Committee at its fifty-second session in 2009 agreed that Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh of the Islamic Republic of Iran, should be elected to the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee.

Therefore, unless there is any objection, I take it that the Subcommittee would wish to elect Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be elected to the Office of Chair to the Legal Subcommittee.

Therefore, unless there is any objection, I take it that the Subcommittee would wish to elect Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh as its Chair for a two-year term beginning with this session.

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 see no objection.

It is so decided.

Leaving the Chair after two years of my service, I would like to thank you all for your excellent cooperation and your enthusiasm of the legal matters of the COPUOS and now as a simple delegate of my country, I will continue with you in our common work with great pleasure.

And now I warmly congratulate Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh on his election and would like now to invite him to assume the Chair. Sir, you are invited.

Mr. A. TALEBZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank all member States of the Committee for electing me post of Chair of the Subcommittee for the period of 2010 and 2011 and for the confidence that you have placed in me in forwarding the work of the Legal Subcommittee.

I would like to assure you of my commitment to the work of the Subcommittee. I am honoured to assume this important function which was successfully fruitful by the predecessor, Mr. Vladimir Kopal, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to inform the Subcommittee that I have received communication from Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, requesting to participate in the meeting of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee as observers.

I would, therefore, suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations to attend the current session and to our Subcommittee as appreciate that 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 that we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

It is so decided.

I would also like to inform the Subcommittee of the application by Tunisia to become a full member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The official communication by Tunisia was received by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on 14 August

2009 and was duly communicated to all Permanent Missions of member States of the Committee in a Note Verbale on 5 October 2009. The Note Verbale received by Tunisia is contained in Conference Room 46 to this session. A decision will be made by the Committee at its fifty-third session in June this year.

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 concern of the countries, particularly those of developing countries.

The first of these regular items is agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, during which delegations will provide general information about their activities related to space law and to highlight any issues that would be covered in greater detail under the agenda items.

The second regular agenda item is item 5, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should convene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

As its fortieth session in 2001, the Subcommittee agreed that the topics addressed in the discussion of the Working Group would include the status of the treaties. The review of the implementation and obstacles to the universal acceptance as well as the promotion of the space law, especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its forty-first session in 2002, the Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group would consider any new similar issue that may to raise in the discussion in the Working Group, provided that those issues fall within its existing mandate.

At the fortieth session of the Subcommittee in 2009, the Working Group agreed that member States would in addressing the low participation of States in the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies continue to discuss the following issue at the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee in 2010.

(a) Other 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 international and national rules governing the activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

(d) A census whether existing international rules adequately address activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

At the same session in 2009, the Subcommittee agreed that the Subcommittee at its present session will review the need to assess the mandate of the Working Group beyond 2010.

The third item is agenda item 6 on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law. Under this item member States may bring to the attention of the Subcommittee any information of the activities of international organizations relating to space law. The reports that were received from international organizations are contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.278 and Addendum.1 as well as Conference Room Paper 3.

The further regular item is agenda item 7, Matters Relating to (a) the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, (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 5 of its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should convene its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

At its thirty-ninth session in 2000, the Subcommittee agreed that the item should remain as a regular item on its agenda but that the Working Group under the item would consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.

The Working Group will have before it in the following documents national legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space, Addendum 6 of document A/AC.105/865.

Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space, replies from member States, Addenda 5 and 6 to document A/AC.105/889.

The Subcommittee should also consider four single issues/items for discussion.

The first single issue/item is agenda item 8, Review and Possible Revision of the Principle Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. In this regard, I would like to inform delegations that in paragraph 11 of its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly welcomed its satisfaction the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources Applications in Outer Space, which had been endorsed by the Committee at its fifty-second session, A/AC.105/934.

The second single issue/item is agenda item 9, 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 for the developments with regard to the draft Protocol.

The third single issue/item is agenda item 10, Capacity-Building in Space Law. The Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session in 2009 and in that capacity-building training and education in space law were of paramount importance to national, regional and international efforts to further develop the practical aspects of space science and technology and to increase knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities were carried out and emphasized the important role of the Subcommittee in that regard.

The Subcommittee recommended that member States and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space inform the Subcommittee at this session for any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build a capacity in space law.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report of the Secretariat on the Implementation of Recommendations to Build Capacity in Space Law, A/AC.105/954, as well as Conference Room Paper 8 containing the information received from member States on their action and initiatives to build capacity in space law.

The Subcommittee will have before it the report on the United Nations/Islamic Republic of Iran Workshop on Space Law: Role of International Space Law in the Development and Instituting(?) of International and Regional Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, that was held in Tehran on 8-11 November 2009.

The provision of the Workshop on Space Law will be made available during the course of this week.

The Subcommittee will also have before it a report on the Second United Nations Expert Meeting on Promoting Education in Space Law and in conjunction with the Space Law Workshop on 12 and 13 November 2009.

The fourth single/issue item is agenda item 11, General Exchange of Information on National Mechanisms Relating to Space Debris Mitigation Measures.

The Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session in 2009 noted that some States had strength and national mechanisms governing space debris mitigation through the nomination of governmental supervisory authorities. The involvement of academic and industry and the development of new legislative norms in structures, standards and frameworks.

All delegations have this morning been provided with a publication containing the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The agenda item under Work Plan. In 2007, the Subcommittee agreed to include a general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space as an item under the four-year work plan covering the period from 2008 to 2011. This agenda item will be considered as item 12.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session should re-convene its Working Group on this agenda item. The Working Group will continue to examination the responses received from member States under national legislation relating to space activities and will begin drafting its report.

In conclusion, in accordance with the Work Plan for the period 2008 until 2011 contained in the report of the Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session, A/AC.105/809(?), paragraph 136.

The Working Group during the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee in 2009 agreed that at this session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group should pursue its examination of the issue of risk during the forty-eighth session. The Working Group also agreed that a number of issues needed for the consideration such as the regulation for States of transfer of ownership of space objects and of transfer of authorized space activities to the third parties. The participation of private individuals in space flights and the treatment in service provider contracts of issue of liability and responsibility through collision of satellites in outer space.

The Subcommittee will have before it a document of information provided by member States national legislation, A/AC.105/957. In addition, the Working Group will have before it the Conference Room Paper containing information provided by member States as well as a thematic overview of national space legislation.

Finally, at this session, the Legal Subcommittee will also consider a proposal to the Committee for a new item to be considered by the Subcommittee at its fiftieth session in 2011. In accordance with the agreed structure of the agenda of the Subcommittee for a proposal can be submitted for consideration in the following categories.

Regular item single issues/items for discussion one year only and items to be considered under a multi-year work plan.

Symposium

A symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law will take place this afternoon starting at 3.00 p.m. in the Conference Room. The title of the Symposium is "National Space Legislation: Drafting Legal Engines for the Growth of Space Activities". The programme of the Symposium is made available to all delegations.

Conference Services

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to say a few words concerning the utilization of the Conference Services made available to all of the Subcommittee.

You will recall that in accordance with practice over the past years the Subcommittee has agreed that the 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 matter.

I see none.

It is so decided.

Organizational matters

I would now like to turn to some organizational matters. General Assembly resolution 32/71 recalls that members of each United Nations bodies being full at the beginning of each session of the resources available to it.

I would like to inform you of the agreement made for this session of the Legal Subcommittee assigned Conference Meeting Room, Conference Room M1, Room M0E19, M7, M0E100 and E0951. Simultaneous interpretation, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and sound recording will be provided for the plenary(?) meeting in the original language and English.

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

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, normally from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on working days, and the intergovernmental bodies should only take a review of their meeting patterns, reporting cycles and in accordance with Conference Service are just the request for subsequent sessions accordingly.

In addition to the above, financial and capacity consultation(?) in Conference Service consider with a trend of increasing demand for both meeting and documentation services. The existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload. There is a need to adhere more strictly to guidelines on providing an interpretation, meeting and documentation service.

In particular, the Ad-Hoc Informal Consultation Meeting be held at regular hours or non-working days will not be serviced. The Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficient measures such as increasing outsourcing fully

electronic document procedures (precision?), reduced overtime and night shift and intensive detailed report drafting assistance. Therefore, close coordination and cooperation between delegations, consultative Secretariat and Conference Services are even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Services will do their best to deliver to us as they did in the past. With timely in-session documentation, they will deliver as much documentation in all 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 was it submitted for proceeding.

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

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

Finally, delegates are requested to turn mobile telephones off when entering any conference room, mobile phones are switched off and understand by seriously interfere with the sound system in conferences rooms and has an effect on the quality of interpretation and sound recording. I strongly urge you to please to adhere to this request. Thank you.

I would now like to outline the tentative schedule for the next meeting this morning.

We shall shortly proceed with the general exchange of views.

This afternoon starting at 3.00 p.m., the Symposium "National Space Legislation - Crafting Legal Engines for the Growth of Space Activities" will be held in this room.

I would also like to inform delegates that at 6.00 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 the 'F' Building.

Are there any questions or comments regarding this schedule of work that we have just outlined?

I see none. We will proceed accordingly.

General exchange of views (agenda item 4)

Distinguished delegates, I would now suggest that we begin consideration of item 4 of our agenda, General Exchange of Views.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Costa Rica on behalf of GRULAC.

Ms. A. T. DENGO BENAVIDES (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Group of States of Latin America and the Caribbean, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh, on your recent election as Chairman of this Subcommittee and express our conviction that under your leadership the work in this period of sessions will be crowned with success. Similarly, through you, we would like to express our thanks to the outgoing President for the excellent work in the two years under his stewardship.

Chairman, firstly, might I, on behalf of GRULAC, express our solidarity with the people of Chile for the recent earthquake which hit that country last month. We urge all States to take part in the international efforts aimed at cooperating with that nation.

Similarly, we extend this call to continue to provide assistance to the people of Haiti who are still facing up to the disastrous consequences of the awful earthquake which hit them in January of this year. GRULAC, in its interest to consolidate international peace and security, as well as bolstering international cooperation, repeats its support and respect for the legal principles on which are founded exploration and use of outer space for peaceful ends emphasizing (a) the principle of equal access to outer space in favour of all States without any discrimination whatever their degree of scientific, technical and economic development. In this vein, we support the regional activities intended to strengthen the universal character of the use and exploration of outer space as well as equitable and rational use of it; (b) the principle of non-appropriation of outer space which includes the Moon and other celestial bodies which cannot be the object of

appropriation by any States to claim sovereignty, for their use, occupation or of any other form; (c) the non-militarization of outer space and as heritage of all of humanity its strict use to improve the living conditions and peace between peoples who inhabit our planet; and (d) regional cooperation in developing space activities, as have been emphasized and remain set out in resolution 64/86 of the General Assembly of 10 December 2009 on international cooperation for the use of outer space for peaceful ends as well as in other international fora. In general, GRULAC considers it essential that this Subcommittee increases interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to promote elaboration of binding international norms on critical issues such as the use of sources of nuclear energy in outer space and space debris, *inter alia*, bearing in mind is that the main responsibilities of the United Nations in the legal sphere is to provide the impetus to progressive development of international law and its regulation in this case relating to the outer space environment.

In this vein, the Group welcomes the contributions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee towards transparency, registration of space objects and space debris. Similarly, GRULAC considers it necessary that we revise, update and modify the five United Nations treaties on outer space, the aim being to strengthen the guiding principles which govern space activities by States and particular its peaceful use, strengthening international cooperation and conducting space technology so that it is accessible to individual nations. It also makes specific use to the source of nuclear energy in outer space and with the profound respect for international standards we consider that this issue to regulatory activity is exclusively a duty of individual States without, or rather irrespective of their social, economic, scientific or technical development and it is a matter for all of humanity. It repeats once more that international responsibility of governments in national activities which suppose the use of nuclear energy sources in outer space, whether they be conducted by governmental bodies or non-governmental bodies and the importance of these be conducted for the benefit of peoples and not to their detriment.

On this basis, on the basis of the Safety Framework on the Application of Nuclear Energy Sources in Outer Space, approved by COPUOS at its fifty-second period of sessions, GRULAC calls upon this Subcommittee to revive this as well as to promote binding norms in order to guarantee that any activity developed in outer space be governed by the principles of preservation of life and peace. In particular, we need to pay greater attention to the legal issues related

with satellite platforms with nuclear energy sources in outer space and the life of malfunctions which would be reported and possible collisions which they represent a high risk for humanity.

Chairman, on the other hand, relating to the character and the use of geostationary orbit, GRULAC would like to re-state its position that this natural resource, since it is limited, runs the risk of saturation. Hence, it considers that its use must be made rational and extended to all States providing them the opportunity to gain access to geostationary orbit on equitable conditions, taking into account in particular the needs and interests of developing countries and the geographical position of certain countries in compliance with the established principles in the legal field of the ITU and other bodies in pursuance of the United Nations.

From this perspective and in order to ensure the sustainability of this medium, GRULAC considers it necessary that examination of this issue be maintained on the agenda of this Subcommittee at an inter-State level through the creation of Action Teams, Working Groups or intergovernmental panels if they be necessary to this end. The Group firmly supports COPUOS maintaining and strengthening its action within the United Nations system and, in this vein, supports the proposal presented by the Chair of the Committee for a United Nations Policy for Space which makes it possible to increase coordination between member States and within the United Nations system in applying space science and technology in order to meet the needs in terms of development of all countries. These thoughts on a space policy will make it possible for our system to be prepared to the challenges in terms of space cooperation for the years to come. Hence, GRULAC recalls the mandate granted by the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/Res/64/86 that this proposal be considered and extended by the Committee at its fifty-fifth period of sessions and invites member States to make their contributions to document CRP.12 so that this Legal Subcommittee be involved in the Latin American proposal, in COPUOS in particular, and in the United Nations in general.

Finally, GRULAC welcomes the initiative and progress made in the academic curricula in space law which must be taught at the Regional Centres as part of the training programmes of COPUOS and of other bodies in the system.

Chairman, finally, on behalf of the Group of States of Latin America and the Caribbean, we repeat our goodwill and willingness to cooperate to contribute

to fruitful discussion that the work of the period of sessions be crowned with success. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished delegate of Costa Rica. A very good presentation and good recommendations.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate from Japan. I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Japan please.

Mr. Y. HORIKAWA (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Japanese Government, I am pleased to address the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. I would like to extend the warm welcome to the new Chairman, Mr. Ahmad Talebzadeh, and also express our sincere gratitude to the former Chairman, Dr. Vladimir Kopal, as well as to the Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and her staff for their untiring efforts to prepare this session of the Subcommittee.

I would also like to send my heartfelt condolences to the victims of the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

Mr. Chairman, since the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, several notable events in Japanese exploration have taken place. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of them with you today.

First, I would like to update you on the status of Japan's national legislation.

The Diet(?), our legislative body, passed the basic space law in May 2008. Based on the law, the Strategic Headquarters for Space Development and Utilization, led by the Prime Minister, was established in the Cabinet Office in September 2008, which published the Basic Plan for Space Policy in June 2009.

Following that Basic Space Law, as well as the Basic Plan, we are now working on concrete legislations which covers a wider spectrum of private outer space activities. The Japanese space exploration and utilization under the Basic Space Law will continue to be in accordance with the space-related treaties and pursuant to the pacifist(?) principles enshrined in the Constitution of Japan.

Mr. Chairman, Japan has actively been pursuing its space activities and the space-related

treaties and in the process has produced various tangible results.

First, regarding human space exploration, the Japanese astronaut, Mr. Wakata, carried out a long-term stay in the International Space Station and the Assembly of the Japanese Experiment Module, Kibo, was finally completed last July with the docking of an external platform for experiments to the International Space Station.

In addition to this, since last September, Japan has been playing an important role in conducting routine transportation to the International Space Station using H-II transport vehicles and H-11B launch vehicles. This tremendous achievement was made through Much(?) International Airport pursued for more than 20 years and there is an agreement concerning cooperation on the Civil International Space Station signed by Canada, ESA, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Japan.

Furthermore, a Soyuz-carried Japanese astronaut, Mr. Noguchi, into space last December and a Space Shuttle scheduled to be launched this April will carry the Japanese astronaut, Ms. Yamasaki, into space. Many Japanese astronauts flights and experiments in Kibo are schedule in the near future.

Japan has been registering space objects using the international designator issued by the Committee on Space Research, COSPAR, following the Registration Convention. Japan has already registered each part of Kibo in our Registry appropriately using our specially arranged designators based on the COSPAR International Designator. This was notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Japan continued to observe space-related treaties and we are convinced that Japanese human space exploration will continue to develop. We are also sure that the results from the experiments and observations made by Kibo will contribute to new scientific knowledge and to spin-offs that will be useful for all.

Secondly, we would like to introduce two Japanese developments in the field of Earth observation.

The first one is a Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite, GOSAT, called IBUKI in Japanese, which was launched in January 2009. Public release of the observation data from IBUKI has been carried out increasingly. Japan expects the IBUKI

mission to contribute to the development of a new range of policies for the prevention of global warming.

Another activity related to Earth observation is our efforts to promote the utilization of satellites in disaster management. This issue is one of the top priorities in Japan and in order to realize this, Japan has been actively working in the multilateral framework of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF, and the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters. The Sentinel-Asia, which is carried out under APRSAF, is aiming to increase the number of satellites which contribute to this project and to enhance its utilization.

This January, at the Sixteenth session of the APRSAF, held in Bangkok, and co-hosted by Thailand and Japan, APRSAF also confirmed that the Sentinel-Asia will cooperate with the International Charter.

Thirdly, I would like to introduce our activities on space science and satellite communication.

As to the Lunar Orbiting Satellite, named KAGUYA, launched in 2007, its Moon Observation Mission was completed last June. Analysis of data acquired by KAGUYA has been underway and a large amount of new full-scale scientific results related to the Moon's origin and evolution have been published in our academic journals.

Moreover, the launch of the Venus Climate Orbiter, AKATSUKI, which is Planet-C, is scheduled for this May.

The Japanese Near-Earth Object Explorer, HAYABUSA by MUSES-C, which reached in EO named ITAKAWA, is now on its way back to Earth and is currently scheduled to return this June. We expect that the result of these missions will give us a broader understanding of space.

In terms of satellite communications, the launch of the First Quasi-Zenith Satellite, QZS-1, named MICHIBIKI, is scheduled for this year. I am convinced that it will contribute to the upper grade of positioning satellite technology and consequently contribute to a safe and secure society.

Mr. Chairman, as I have just mentioned here, Japan has actively been pursuing its space activities and the space treaties in order to realize a safe and prosperous society and also to extend our scientific knowledge.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to share that Japan has actively been addressed on matters of space debris mitigation. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA, has developed its own Space Debris Mitigation Standard and JAXA experts have been invaluable to the work of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, IADC.

Additionally, Japan's Basic Space Law clearly states that space activities should consider space environment preservation. Therefore, Japan's Basic Plan for Space Policy stipulates the promotion of research and development related to the better understanding of space debris distribution, the minimization of debris generation and the active removal of existing large debris from orbit.

Furthermore, following the Basic Plan, Japan will keep up its international coordination efforts in the construction of appropriate international rules in addition to space treaties to mitigate space debris.

Mr. Chairman, the space treaties which Japan has ratified, 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.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate the need to use various forums, including the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, to call upon countries that are not yet party to the space-related conventions to conclude the conventions as soon as possible. Japan, therefore, supports such initiatives of COPUOS to this end.

Mr. Chairman, the very important mandate of the Legal Subcommittee is to generate discussion on the legal aspects 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 the Subcommittee and work closely as a member of COPUOS in order for the Subcommittee to efficiently and effectively achieve its goals.

Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Japan for a very interesting statement and very good activities.

According to my list, the next speaker is the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom.

Ms. L. KEYTE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for all their hard work in preparing for this meeting.

The British National Space Centre remains the current focus of the United Kingdom's space activities. Full details of the British National Space Centre and the United Kingdom space activities, including the United Kingdom Civil Space Strategy, can be found on the website, www.bnfc.gov.uk. Delegates may be interested to learn that in December 2009, the United Kingdom's Science Minister, Lord Drayson, announced that the United Kingdom will establish a new Executive Space Agency. This new agency will bring a range of national budgets into one place, improving our strategic decision-making and allowing the United Kingdom to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by a world increasingly dependent on advances in space innovations and science. We will share more information on the new Space Agency with delegations later in this meeting.

We look forward to a useful and productive exchange of views amongst delegations during the forthcoming session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee.

We also look forward to active participation in relevant agenda items during the meeting. In particular, we recognize the importance of the exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures and of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

In sharing our experience in interpretation and implementation of these very important measures, we believe that we can achieve our goal of the long-term sustainability of space operations ensuring that space remains open for business for many years to come.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank you distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom for a very good statement and congratulations to you for establishing the new agency.

According to my list, the next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate from the Czech Republic.

I give you the floor distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Czech Republic, I wish to make a number of comments on the agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, at this session of the Legal Subcommittee. But prior to doing it, I would like to convey to you our sincere congratulations and full satisfaction at your election as the new Chairman of this body for the next biennial period. We wish you full success in the forthcoming efforts to strengthen and further development of the legal basis of space activities in which the COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee have played a key role for almost five decades.

Our greetings are also addressed to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman, the Secretary of the Subcommittee, Mr. Niklas Hedman, and all staff members of the Office for Outer Space Affairs who assist the session of the Subcommittee. In this context, may I appreciate, once again, the full understanding and assistance they provided for me in the exercise of the role of Chairman of the Subcommittee during the foregoing biennium.

As we already emphasized several times in our earlier statements, the Czech Republic has always recognized the important role played by the COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee in establishing and widening the legal basis for space activities. For this reason, we particularly watch the consideration of the agenda item "Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space" and the deliberations of the Working Group on this item headed by the distinguished representative of Greece, Dr. Vassilios Cassapoglou.

In particular, our delegation followed the discussion relating to the fifth United Nations space treaty, the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. In this respect, the submission of the document A/AC.105/C.2/L.272, jointly elaborated by seven States Parties to the Moon Agreement, which outlined and documented the benefits of adherence to the Agreement and initiated a meaningful discussion on the subject has been very useful. It is our conviction that this discussion should continue during the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee by concentrating on the three points outlined in the provisional agenda, document A/AC.105/C.2/L.277, in the bottom of Page 2 and in the beginning of its Page 3. From the legal point of view, we attach a great importance to the issues mentioned in paragraphs (c) and (d) of these points, namely to identify the international and national rules governing the activities

on the Moon and other celestial bodies and to assess whether existing international rules adequately addressed activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies. They represent the core of the present legal problems relating to the status of the Moon Agreement.

In this connection, we welcome the initiative of Austria for convening a Seminar on the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which should be held on Thursday, 25 March 2010, in the evening in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. I think that on the list of speakers, we correct the names of outstanding experts in this particular field and we are looking forward also to a meaningful discussion on the Moon Agreement.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Czech Republic already had the opportunity for welcoming the results of efforts of the Joint Expert Group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency. It accomplished the development of a technically-based set of goals and recommendations creating a valuable Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space. We are grateful to the International Atomic Energy Agency for its publishing this document, as approved by both Organizations in a special brochure and on a disc.

While recognizing the merit of the view held by some delegations at the last year's session of the Legal Subcommittee on this item, namely that a revision of the 1992 Nuclear Power Source Principles would not be appropriate at this time. We agree with the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee which was later endorsed by the COPUOS and the General Assembly to retain this issue on the agenda of the Subcommittee. In the forthcoming discussion, the recommendations of the Safety Framework might be considered in some greater detail from the point of view of the possibility of the implementation in the 1992 United Nations Principles as and when they are re-opened for review and revision.

Mr. Chairman, the Czech Republic has welcomed the efforts to elaborate a programme of specific actions for capacity-building in space law. One of them, due to the effective support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, reached a visible progress by drafting an education curriculum on space law which was already presented for information of the Legal Subcommittee at its last session in 2009. We appreciate that the discussion on this draft continued and at the second United Nations Expert Meeting on Promoting Education in Space Law, which was held

immediately after the successful United Nations Iran Workshop in Tehran, November 2009. It further developed the preliminary draft and we also agree that the efforts will continue during the course of this meeting of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Czech Republic has been satisfied by the fact that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee marked after the 1999 Technical Report on Space Debris another important step in dealing with this impending problem. The COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, which were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 62/217 of 21 December 2007, though not legally binding, have also created a useful basis for considering the legal aspects of the undesirable by-products of space activities.

Our delegation has been a long-time initiator of the consideration of the legal aspects of space debris in the Legal Subcommittee with the aim to elaborate a set of United Nations principles as are, for example, the 1992 Nuclear Power Source Principles. Therefore, we welcome the inclusion of the present point, General Exchange of Information on National Mechanisms Relating to Space Debris Mitigation Measures, as a first step that might lead to a more ambitious goal, the development of the above-mentioned legal principles.

Mr. Chairman, the last item that we wish now to comment is general exchange of information of national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Due to the excellent guidance of Professor Irmgard Marboe of Austria, the discussion on this item, as developed during the first two years, particularly in the Working Group chaired by her, may be evaluated as the highlight of the present work of the Legal Subcommittee. A number of problems, some of them listed in the provisional agenda for this session, still remain to be dealt with and settled in order to produce a final report including definite conclusions. But our delegation is convinced that in this respect, the Legal Subcommittee and its Working Group have been on the right track.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank you distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic for an interesting statement and very good recommendations. Again, thank you very much for your support.

According to my list, the next speaker is the distinguished delegate of France. I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of France.

Ms. F. MANGIN (France) (*Interpretation from French*): Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates. France values the universalization and improvement of the implementation of the rules established by space conventions, particularly the three major principles that should guide all space activities, free access to outer space for peaceful purposes, maintaining security and integrity of satellites in orbit, and taking into account legitimate interests of defence and national security of States in space.

The French delegation attaches great importance to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee.

The growing number of space actors, public and private, the effects of space environment on the satellites, the proliferation of space debris and the announced development of commercial manned flights gives us food for thought as to the rules to follow to ensure the safe use of outer space. France is determined to work to provide guarantees of safety and security and long-term sustainability for space activities. It is a matter of shared interest for States involved in space activities, for those who benefit from space services, for those whose future access to outer space must be maintained, and finally for commercial operators.

Meeting these new challenges that influence the development of the peaceful uses of outer space requires a common international effort, monitoring, communication and coordination.

France has put together all of these considerations in its recent law on space operations adopted on 3 June 2008. The objective of that law is to establish conditions under which the French Government would authorize and control space operations under its jurisdiction or its responsibility in conformity with the United Nations space treaties and conventions on outer space, particularly the 1967 Treaty, the 1972 Liability Convention addressing damage to third parties, and the 1975 Registration Convention. Specific modalities for a regime for authorizing and controlling space activities was defined in a Decree adopted in June 2009. Technical regulations clarifying the conditions under which such operations can be conducted are being finalized.

This legislation and these regulations provide a framework for space operations in France, those conducted by French private operators or foreign operators and clearly fall within the context of

maintaining the long-term sustainability of outer space and the integrity of satellites during their exploitation in orbit. In this regard, France has established in its technical regulations a number of rules with regard to space debris mitigation. These rules which will be fully applicable to operators under French jurisdiction are consistent with international standards in the area, that is the guidelines for space debris mitigation which were approved at the end of 2007 by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/Res/62/217 and the rules ensuing from ISO Standard 24113.

My delegation will, during this session of the Legal Subcommittee, make a presentation on the Decrees adopted in 2009 and the technical regulations being finalized, as well as a presentation on French regulations in the area of registration.

France supports another initiative which is different but complementary to that regarding the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. I am referring to the European Union's draft International Code on the Safety of Space Activities with the objective of promoting through confidence-building measures and voluntary transparency measures, the safety of space activities, be it civilian or military. This project represents a strong commitment of States on a voluntary basis, including confidence-building and transparency measures designed to be fully implemented soon. In particular, it contains a part entitled "Respect for and Promotion of the Treaties, Conventions and Other Commitments Regarding Activities Conducted in Outer Space". This will make it possible to strengthen the implementation of treaties, principles and other commitments that already exist in the area of space safety and security.

Finally, with regard to the Subcommittee's session, my delegation has already had occasion to say in the past that we believe that taking into account our agenda for the Legal Subcommittee, its deliberations could be rationalized, streamlined in terms of making them more effective through, among other measures, reducing the duration of the session, obviously with the understanding that that duration can be again extended at some point in the future if the agenda requires it.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of France for her good and interesting statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Austria. I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Austria.

Mr. P. BITTNER (Austria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Let me first congratulate you on your chairmanship of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2010 to 2011. We are confident that our work during these sessions of the Subcommittee will greatly benefit from your skill and experience.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and her able and dedicated team for the invaluable assistance including in the preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman, Austria welcomes this year's Symposium on the theme "National Space Legislation", organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law. The theme perfectly reflects our current discussions and will give us a useful input.

Last year we had an intensive and fruitful discussion on the topic "National Space Legislation" and a newly established Working Group under the chairmanship of Professor Irmgard Marboe made substantial progress. We are looking forward to continuing the work on this topic during this session and hope that the final outcome will provide valuable insights and advice from member States drafting national space legislation.

Let me add that Austria has a specific interest in this regard. As you remember, Austria reported last year to this Subcommittee on its intention to adopt a national space law. The exchange of information on national legislation during the past two sessions directly contributed to our project to work on such a law as we gained important insights from the experiences of other States.

On this basis, space law experts from Austrian universities prepared the first draft of the Austrian Space Act for further consideration at the competent Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology. The Ministry already concluded its internal considerations of the draft and will soon start consultations with other Ministries. The law-making process is intended to be finalized in the course of this year.

The background to these efforts to develop a national space law is a research project by Austrian and Canadian universities to investigate the brightness of

massive luminous stars by differential photometry. In the framework of this project, the first Austrian satellite which is currently being assembled in _____(?) is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2011. The satellite will be known as BRITE Target Explorer and will be used to observe stars of high mass. Data on the vibrations may reveal new insights on the composition of these stars as well as on the chemical evolution of the universe.

For Austria, the research project and the construction of the BRITE Target Explorer constitute in a technical but also in a legal sense a new era in space.

Mr. Chairman, let me turn to another agenda item to which Austria attaches importance, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

During the past two sessions, the Legal Subcommittee discussed the low number of ratifications of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. In a joint statement, States Parties to this Agreement identified substantial benefits of adherence to the Agreement, a topic which was already a subject of discussion during last year's meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. We hope to continue this interesting discussion also this year.

In this context, I would also like to refer to the Seminar on the Moon Agreement which Austria already announced last year in the Legal Subcommittee and which will now take place as it was already said on Thursday, 25 March, starting from 6.30 p.m. in the evening in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

The purpose of this informal seminar is a frank and open discussion among experts and reasons for the low number of ratifications of the Moon Agreement and to collect ideas and identify possibilities to encourage States to become Party to the Moon Agreement. The setting and the venue shall allow participants to openly address the different relevant aspects of the Moon Agreement.

Mr. Chairman, turning now to the item Capacity-Building in Space Law, I would first like to welcome the United Nations Workshops on Space Law, the last of which was hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in November 2009. Austria considers these Workshops a valuable contribution to capacity-building in space law. It would also be desirable to

hold such Workshops preferably in developing countries.

Austria has continued to support activities in the area of space law. The National Point of Contact of Space Law, NPOC Austria, is supported by the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology. It was founded in 2001 by Professor Brünner at the University of Graz and was transferred in 2009 to the University of Vienna. Professor Irmgard Marboe, as the new Head of the NPOC Austria, has already organized a number of events, including a public conference at the University of Vienna entitled "Perspectives of Space Exploration and the Role of the United Nations", in June 2009, with the participation of a number of representatives of COPUOS member States as well as of the European Space Policy Institute and of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The law schools in Vienna and Graz offer special courses and seminars on space law in English. They are also open to exchange students. The NPOC Austria is also closely involved in the process of drafting the National Space Law for Austria.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding, allow me to emphasize that the Austrian delegation will continue to provide strong support for 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-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Austria for a very good statement. Thank you so much again.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of China. I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of China.

Mr. X. HU (China) (*Interpretation from Chinese*): Mr. Chairman, at the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the Chinese delegation on your election as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. I am convinced that under your able guidance, this session will in turn expect the results.

This delegation would also like to use this occasion to thank Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the

Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for their diligent preparation for this session.

Mr. Chairman, in 2009, China continued to dedicate itself to peaceful exploration and uses of outer space with six successful launches of six domestically produced satellites into orbit. The FY-Series satellites, OCEAN-1 satellite and the small satellite constellation for the environment and disaster monitoring and forecasting are all operating properly offering wide applications in such areas as meteorology, oceanography, environment monitoring and disaster prevention and mitigation.

In January 2010, the third satellite of the COMPASS Navigation System was launched successfully. China attaches great importance to space science research and is active in this regard, as shown in the advances made in such fields as space astronomy, space physics and microgravity.

Mr. Chairman, the advancement of Chinese space programmes is attributable to the tireless efforts of several generations of dedicated people working in the space sector. This, notwithstanding, international cooperation is also indispensable. China has consistently followed the principle of equality and a mutual benefit, peaceful use and common developments in space cooperation and takes delight in sharing the benefits derived from its space activities with others.

China and ESA collaborated closely in space exploration in 2009 and conducted a 3-D probe of the geo-space from six points, the first of its kind in human history, thus, ushering in a new phase of multi-layered and multiple spatial temporal-scale study of geo-space weather.

The front-end preparations for the joint China-Russia Mars Probe Project were already accomplished and the launch of YH-1 Mars Probe is expected in 2011.

With regard to space applications, China has further promoted satellite data sharing by combining the broadcast system of its FY Meteorological Satellites with European and American satellite broadcast systems to form an international satellite data-sharing network.

China accords great importance to the legitimate interests of developing countries in exploring and using outer space and has been committed to enhancing cooperation with other

developing countries and through their capacity-building.

China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellites had already provided more than 900,000 scenes of data to users up to the end of 2009 and will start transmitting data to regions in Africa via ground stations.

Since the inception of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, China has lent strong support to the Organization in order that it play a greater role in fostering space technology applications in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Chairman, in both its domestic space endeavour and the international cooperation, China has always advocated the peaceful uses of outer space and abides by the basic principles laid down in the five outer space treaties which constitute the legal framework for peaceful exploration and uses of space and guarantee the correct direction of human space activities. They form an important regime ensuring harmony in outer space.

At the same time, we should not lose sight of the fact that the dynamic development of the space sector poses new challenges and questions to the existing space legal framework. The course of peaceful exploration and uses of outer space has been constantly overshadowed by an arms race in outer space.

With the general trend of more commercialized and privatized space activities, the lack of effective regulatory measures and institutional norms is becoming more apparent. The effort to protect the space environment and achieve sustainable development in outer space should be balanced with preserving the legitimate interest of developing countries to explore and use outer space.

These issues and challenges put human existence and development at stake and outer space is the province of all mankind so all countries should pay attention to these issues. Therefore, China is ready to work with all parties concerned and show our courage and determination in space exploration and use. We would like to tackle these problems and the challenges head on and create a peaceful and stable space environment under the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman, over the past 50 years, the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS has made important contributions to the progression of space law. Each single space legal instrument bears the mark of tireless efforts of the Legal Subcommittee and is the

crystallization of the hard work of delegates. Following this good tradition, the Chinese delegation will work creatively and collaboratively to ensure the success of this session and contribute to the expansion and evolution of space law.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of China for a good and interesting statement. Thank you so much.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Germany. I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Germany.

Mr. H. WASSERMANN (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the German delegation, I am honoured to address the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations COPUOS.

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Subcommittee.

Concurrently, the German delegation presents its thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Vladimir Kopal.

This Subcommittee has made and will continue to make important contributions to the refinement and development of outer space under your leadership.

It is a pleasure to be here in Vienna to meet with this distinguished group of legal experts in space law. The Subcommittee's last session was a productive one and we look forward to continued progress in addressing issues of practical concerns to all of us.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, this year's agenda is a very ambitious one. We welcome the opportunity to present our position to many of these agenda items. Let me start with the matter of space law.

Given the increasing number of non-governmental activities in the exploration and the use of outer space, commercial as well as scientific small satellite missions, Germany had decided to prepare its national space legislation. The German Space Law will focus on implementing the United Nations space treaties. Accordingly, it will cover, for example, the obligation to obtain a permit for non-governmental activities in the exploration and use of outer space, the

registration of space objects, liability and insurance issues. Details of the German space law are currently being elaborated. Germany plans to finalize its space legislation at the latest until summer 2013.

Regarding registration, Germany has fulfilled its obligations according to the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. These notifications are made available on the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs website.

Germany underscores the necessity of capacity-building in space law through a wide range of activities. The Institute of Air and Space Law at the Cologne University, for example, hosts an extensive collection of documents with regard to space law. In addition, a growing number of German university institutes offer special lectures on space law.

scholarships in order to encourage and promote academic exchange.

Mr. Chairman, Germany is already party to four space treaties, the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability Convention, and the Registration Convention. Germany promotes its space activities constantly and in accordance with those treaties.

Under the legal framework of these treaties, the use of space _____(?), international organizations and even private entities has flourished. We will continue to contribute to various activities regarding legal aspects of space programmes.

Germany, as you know, is committed and continues to be committed to a high standard in the interest of all space-faring nations now and in the future through its National Aerospace Centre, the DLR.

Thank you for your consideration. The German delegation looks forward to a fruitful and interesting session. In this context, we would like to draw the Committee's attention to a technical presentation that Germany intends to make under agenda item 12 with a view to the German Satellite Data Security Act, tomorrow, Tuesday, 23 March.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Germany for a very good statement.

Are there any other speakers on the general exchange of views at this time?

I see none. We will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, tomorrow morning.

Distinguished delegates, 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 objection, I give the floor to the Director, Ms. Mazlan Othman. Please.

Ms. M. OTHMAN (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Mr. Chairman, thank you Mr. Chairman.

I would like to begin my statement by congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and on behalf of the Office to welcome you as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee presiding over this session. We are certain that under your guidance this will be a productive session and I want to assure you the full support of my colleagues and I.

Let me also take this opportunity to sincerely thank Vladimir Kopal for ably guiding the Subcommittee during his term as Chair.

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, allow me first to express the Office's deepest condolence to the people of Haiti and Chile who have undergone great tragedies as a result of earthquakes. The Office is committed to promoting the use of space-based information for disaster management through the United Nations SPIDER Programme and our colleagues in SPIDER were able to facilitate access to space-based information to both member States very soon after the occurrence of the tragedies. Last week, our colleagues were in Haiti and Chile to investigate how the use of space-based information could be further enhanced.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, during the last year, the Office continued to discharge the

responsibilities of the Secretary-General and 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 the General Assembly resolution 1721B16 of 20 December 1961, in the past year, Australia, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, furnished information on their space objects under the Registration Convention and resolution 1721(b). This information received has been circulated. The registration documents and an online index of objects launched into outer space can be found on the Office website.

In addition, the Netherlands has notified the United Nations of the establishment of their National Registry of Space Objects in accordance with Article 2 of the Registration Convention. The information received was circulated to all member States.

It is my pleasure to inform delegates that the Subcommittee's efforts in this area, which resulted in the adoption in 2007 of General Assembly resolution 62/101 on enhancing registration practices, are becoming readily apparent. An increasing number of member States has started providing supplementary information in line with recommendations made in resolution 62/101. Such information includes notifications on when a space object is no longer operational, when a space object is moved to a disposal graveyard orbit, etc., as well as harmonizing provided information.

The Office would like to take this opportunity to note the willingness of member States and international intergovernmental organizations to review and amend their practices as well as consider proposals by the Office on harmonizing registration practices. The Office would like to especially thank States and organizations for their support, without which it would not be possible to so successfully implement the resolution.

As requested in resolution 62/101, the Office has prepared a model registration form. The form, which is based on common registration practices, as well as recommendations made in resolution 62/101, has been circulated to delegates in a Conference Room Paper and is available in all official languages of the

United Nations. The form is also accessible through the Office's website and is being distributed to all Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations Office at Vienna.

As in the past, the Office will continue to work proactively with member States and international organizations to support the registration of space objects. The Office continues to stand ready to assist member States on matters relating to the registration of space objects.

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 or General Assembly resolution 1721B16. The Office would like to draw member States attention to Article 2 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.

With regard to implementing the other obligations of the Secretary-General, the Office is pleased to inform delegations that it has received and disseminated information provided by member States under Article 11 of the Outer Space Treaty, as well as Article 5 of the Rescue Agreement. This information relates to recovered space objects, as well as information on space objects presently in orbit and has been disseminated to member States in their paper.

Mr. Chairman, the Office continues to discharge other responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under the legal regime concerning 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 the case of space objects and maintains a 24/7 hotline to respond to queries on re-entry of space objects.

The Office also serves as the 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 notifications 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 contains information as of 1 January 2010 on 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 since the last session of the Subcommittee in 2009, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ratified the Rescue Agreement and the Liability Convention and Nigeria ratified the Registration Convention.

With that, the Outer Space Treaty has now 100 States Parties and 26 Signatory States. The Rescue Agreement has 91 States Parties and 24 Signatory States. The Liability Convention 88 States Parties and 23 Signatory States. The Registration Convention 53 States Parties and four Signatory States. And lastly the Moon Agreement 13 States Parties and four Signatory States.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, 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 opportunities in space law.

Currently, the Office is preparing for the holding of this year's Workshop on Space Law with the Government of Thailand and the Geoinformatics in Space Technology Development Agency, GISTDA. The work is planned to be held in Bangkok, from 16 to 19 November 2010. We would like to acknowledge with gratitude, the generous offer of the European Space Agency to support the Workshop by providing additional funds.

As part of its activities in the field of capacity-building in space law, the Office organized, jointly with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Space Agency, and with the support of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, APSCO, the Sixth Workshop on Space Law, entitled "Role of International Space Law in the Development and Strengthening of International and Regional Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space". The Workshop was held in Tehran from 8 to 11 November 2009. The report from the Workshop is now available and we are also pleased to

inform that proceedings of the Workshop will be made available to you in a CD-ROM this week.

As requested by the Subcommittee, the Office continued to work with experts on the development of the curriculum on space law. To that end, the Office organized the Second Expert Meeting on Promoting Education in Space Law, held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, from 12 to 13 November 2009. The Meeting was organized with the generous support of the Iranian Space Agency to which we would like to submit the Office's greatest gratitude.

The main objective of that Expert Meeting was to revise the draft curriculum, taking into account the comments and observations received from the Committee and member States. During the course of the Meeting, participants evaluated the structure and the content of the first draft of the curriculum on space law to harmonize and finalize the information to be contained in each module. Participants also discussed ways of ensuring the continuation of the work following the conclusion of the Meeting. The report from the Meeting, including recommendations and conclusions, is already available.

The Experts will continue its work on the curriculum for a basic course on space law at the margins of the current session of this Subcommittee.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Office continues to support the work of the Subcommittee in its efforts to build capacity in space law. This includes, firstly, updates of the Directory of Education Opportunities in Space Law. The 2009 edition will be before you in a Conference Room Paper and will be placed as well on the website of the Office. Secondly, provision of advice on international space law and legal issues relating to activities in outer space. Thirdly, strengthening of cooperation with space law entities and organizations with a view to contributing to worldwide efforts from what understanding and the development of space law. Fourthly, participation in the European Centre for Space Law Summer School in September 2009, and lastly, promotion of the application of international law and provision of the technical assistance to governments on matters related to space law.

Mr. Chairman, the Office is pleased to inform the Subcommittee that it continues to update its space law-dedicated web pages. Apart from providing member States with reference tools, such as the Online Index of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the National Space Law Database and the Treaties 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 texts of their national space law and policies for inclusion in this website.

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

Thank you for your kind attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for her informative statement. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, 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.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. I will then suspend the meeting of the Subcommittee to allow time for the Symposium.

The 804th meeting of the Subcommittee will adjourn at the conclusion of the Symposium.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I would like to inform delegates of the Seminar on the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, organized by the Austrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations Organization in Vienna which will be on Thursday, 25 March 2010, from 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Favoritenstrasse 15A.

As a final announcement, I would like to inform delegations that the provisional list of participants for this Subcommittee's 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 their representatives to the Secretariat as soon as possible so they can be included on this provisional list of participants.

The meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much for your attention.

The meeting adjourned at 12.16 p.m.