

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

Unedited transcript

812th Meeting
Friday, 26 March 2010, 3 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. A. Talebzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I now declare open the 812th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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

We will continue and hopefully suspend our consideration of agenda item 7, Matters Relating to (a) the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, pending the adoption of the report of the Working Group, and conclude our consideration of agenda item 7 (b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit.

We will also continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 10, Capacity-Building in Space Law. We will continue our consideration of agenda item 12, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

We will then adjourn the plenary meeting so that the Working Group on Agenda Item 12 can hold its first meeting under the chairmanship of Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

Matters relating to (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space, and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit (agenda item 7)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully suspend our consideration of agenda item 7, Matters Relating to (a) the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, pending the adoption of the report of the Working Group and conclude our consideration of agenda item 7 (b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Indonesia. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Indonesia.

Mr. A. SUBEKHI (Indonesia): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving my delegation to chance to express its views on this important and delicate issue.

Having listened to statements and arguments made by the various delegations yesterday and today, my delegation is of the view that the definition and delimitation of outer space are necessary issues(?). It is for these very reasons that this issue has been included on the agenda of this Subcommittee for such a long time and remains there now.

My delegation believes that we have to be very strict in setting up a roadmap towards attaining a consensus and _____(?) outcome. The solution on this issue should be in the context of applying boundary of air and outer space. That may contribute to legal sovereignty of implementing space law and air law.

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.



The approach proposed by some delegations could be explored and if it is in line with my delegation's position. For instance, the need for further discussion and exchange of views within the technical and legal experts, taking into account the development of new technologies and _____(?) for _____(?) too the establishment of an open-ended Expert Group Meeting will be one of the solutions.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Indonesia for your statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item?

The distinguished representative of Colombia. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, good afternoon and thanks to the distinguished delegation of Indonesia for their statement which enjoys our full support as it has been a concern of my delegation for many years. We do think that now that we want to modify some of the treaties or some of the terms of the treaties in matters like liability and a new limit has to be established or a limit because there is no limit actually.

I understand the concerns of other delegations in providing some bodies that do not belong to these distinguished _____(?) but I do think that a specialized and expert view on these matters could enlighten us all about what paths should we take. So it would be a matter of giving the ICAO the competence or the jurisdiction on what we have to do because we are sovereign countries but these at least knowing that they would exclude(?) from the competencies or mandate what they do not have to do. So I think that this view is important for our further work.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative for your statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item?

I see none.

We have, therefore, suspended our consideration of agenda item 7 (a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, pending the adoption of

the report of the Working Group and have concluded our consideration of agenda item 7 (b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 10, Capacity-Building in Space Law.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of South Africa. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of South Africa.

Ms. T. NAIDU (South Africa): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the South African delegation appreciates the opportunity to take the floor to make interventions on capacity-building in space. As was mentioned in our statement during the general exchange of views, my delegation attaches great importance to this item as it is a matter of concern to developing countries, in particular Africa.

We are pleased with the efforts by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs with regard to capacity-building and the support that was offered by the Office during the Third African Leadership Conference that was held in Algeria from 7-9 December 2009. South Africa regards these fora as platforms through which issues related to the African agenda can be promoted in order to achieve the aim of sustainable development for the African continent. Some of the recommendations made during the Conference with regard to capacity-building were to set up a common regional and sub-regional platform, to permit dialogue and to exchange information about space policy and space law, as well as to strengthen the education policy on space law within the African universities. We believe that this was the foundation of a new partnership between the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the African continent.

However, we would like to urge the international community to intervene by encouraging institutions and organizations in their respective areas to offer assistance in space law and related fields.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation notes with appreciation the comprehensive Directory of Educational Opportunities in Space provided by the Secretariat and encourages the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue its sterling work in this regard.

South Africa is committed to strengthen and promote the development of capacity in space law and related fields. To this end, South Africa has initiated a process of engagement with the various academic

institutions and the National Centres of Excellence within the country, with the aim of developing a short- and long-term capacity-building programme in the field of space law and related fields.

The Government of South Africa has engaged the University of Pretoria to develop a post-graduate course that will be open to decision and policy-makers, students, educators and professionals involved in space activities. The University of Pretoria is considering a component of space law in its Public International Law post-graduate course. The course is expected to commence in 2011. My delegation is also committed to looking at the long-term interventions of expanding the programme to a much broader base with a vision of expanding the post-graduate course to an LLM Programme and curriculum in space law.

Mr. Chairman, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology started a Human Capital Development Initiative that would train students in satellite systems engineering using the CUBESAT as a model for the Programme. The Programme has a number of seminars and short courses. These seminars will also provide a platform for our local experts to meet and discuss the direction that the industry should take. This platform will also grow our space knowledge base that we can make the best out of the very limited local resources.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of South Africa for your statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Iran. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Iran.

Mr. H. SOLEIMANI ESFGAHANI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Mr. Chairman, as my delegation already mentioned, the Islamic Republic of Iran gives great importance to any kind of first link to enhancing the international and regional cooperation concerning space activities. In this context, we believe that capacity-building and the development of the legal frameworks and provisions of space law is indispensable.

In order to fulfil such a work for capacity-building in space law, the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with the United Nations and with the support of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, organized a Workshop on space law on the theme

“Role of International Space Law in the Development and Strengthening of International and Regional Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration of Outer Space, held in Tehran from 8-11 November 2009. The Workshop provided an overview of the legal regime governing the peaceful uses of outer space, examined and compared various aspects of existing national space legislation and considered the current state university-level studies and programmes in space law.

The Workshop was attended by approximately 200 government officials, representatives of the space agencies, universities, students, research institutes, private sector and legislators. Invited speakers and participants from the following countries contributed to the Workshop: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Italy, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States of America. The following international organizations were also presented: the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Several presentations were made on the afore-mentioned issues and extensive interactive discussions took place on various aspects of space law and regulation.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to extend our gratitude to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the valuable work that had been done in organizing the Workshop. We particularly appreciate Mr. Niklas Hedman, Ms. Natercia Rodrigues, Ms. Antonella Bini and Mr. Sergiy Negoda. We are also thanking to the Asia-Pacific Space Organization for its support. My delegation also thanks the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent work that had been done in preparing the report of the Workshop.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, now I would like to invite you to watch a short video clip about the above-mentioned Workshop.

Thank you for your attention.

Video

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative for your statement and short video clip.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Ecuador. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Mr. J. ROSENBERG (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you so much Chairman. Under this item, I simply wanted to announce what I, in fact, already had occasion to say just a few days ago during the Symposium on Space Law. Ecuador hosts the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas and among the most recent activities, because in just a few months, we will be handing over to Mexico. But before we do that, we will have a Workshop on Space Legislation at the Regional Level. And the reason why I am taking the floor here is basically to thank Dr. Othman from the Office for Outer Space Affairs for all the support we have received in terms of organizing this May meeting, 24 and 25, in Ecuador. I have no doubt that this will be very useful because training in space law really has to be taken forward in the Latin American region and we will be most pleased to have the most prestigious experts from the region at this meeting in Ecuador and, of course, the support of Dr. Othman and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs made a major contribution to this.

Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Ecuador for your statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item?

I see none.

We have, therefore, concluded our consideration of agenda item 10, Capacity-Building in Space Law.

Before we conclude, the distinguished representative of Colombia. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman. I would like to start by thanking the Iranian delegation for their very refreshing presentation. We have indeed seen a video which portrays exactly what the international community does in training and stepping up capacity-buildings. A picture is worth more than a thousand words as we all know and Ecuador has indicated, Ecuador being the country to be hosting a legal training at regional level forum, as has been referred to. This is going to be a Workshop in which

various experts at international level are going to be participating and we have been able to gain the Office for Outer Space Affairs' support so this is going to be a very important contribution played by that Workshop indeed.

Chairman, I am somewhat concerned by the way in which we are approaching our work, the order of our broaching our work because there is one item, item 9, where debates can prove to be fairly lengthy. We have not touched upon item 9 for the time being and I must say that the debate on item 9 can be particularly arduous and lengthy.

I would not want us to leave this in abeyance up until the very last minute. That is the concern of my delegation. I believe that it would be wise to avoid last minute surprises and undo and unnecessary improvisation.

This is the reason for which, Chairman, given the fact that we have been able to note that there were some inconsistencies from the editorial angle and since these inconsistencies show up the fact that it will be necessary to show a rather more strict approach than before. Excuse and bear my lack of knowledge, but could the Secretariat shed some light on this? Are these inconsistencies going to be ironed out or are they going to be enshrined in the text? Should they be corrected? I just do not know? I would like really to apologize in advance for any lack of knowledge that I have as to editorial matters. I do not know whether it is the first time or the last time that we are faced with this sort of problem. It is probably not a major point but nonetheless we had been prepared to a certain change in the order and I really would like to obtain some clarification from the Secretariat on that.

I would like to also apologize to you, Chairman, and other delegations, because we have broached and discussed item 7 which actually should have been item 6 and that was concluded and when you said that we were going to be concluding the item on the definition and delimitation of outer space, item 7 (a), I thought that we were going to be opening the debate on 7 (b). Sorry, but quite wisely you decided to sew up both of them, to close on both of them. Possibly there are delegations who would have liked to have speak up under item 7 (b) after all because we had not opened the floor on item 7 (b) for all intents and purposes actually. So I was fairly astonished to say that you were concluding item 7 (a) as well as 7 (b) and my delegation actually would have liked to make a short statement on the geostationary orbit actually.

Thank you very much Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia for your statement.

I give the floor to Mr. Hedman from the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Secretariat can respond to the questions and queries for clarification by the distinguished delegate of Colombia. There were several issues raised. There were also references to editorial issues. I am not clear what editorial inconsistencies there are in the document but nevertheless I will try to respond.

First of all, regarding item 7 and not item 6, item 6 is something else but anyway item 7 comprises of two sub-paragraphs, 7 (a) and 7 (b). Both these two sub-paragraphs of agenda item 7 have been open for four meetings so we have had it open for consideration by delegations since yesterday.

Now regarding item 9, yes, the Secretariat has scheduled the agenda. It was done one and a half months ago and we need to take into account that some items are heavy agenda items, other items are items that might not require that much time for consideration in the Subcommittee. We would like to just inform delegations that the report has to be done pretty earlier, the beginning of next week, in order for all languages to be ready for adoption on Thursday. We have one day less this year, as you recall. This is the reason why the agenda is not following a straight order, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. So we have certain flexibilities there.

We have tried to advance agenda item 12, since we know that that is a substantive item which might require a lot of attention when we start the work in the Working Group which will have its first meeting this afternoon. And that is the reason why we advanced agenda item 12 and started it already on Wednesday this week because we have seen that there had not been that many statements.

Regarding agenda item 9, we have scheduled it, starting on Monday, because the representative of UNIDROIT will come here and deliver a presentation of recent developments in the context of UNIDROIT. However, Mr. Chairman, if there is a wish from the Subcommittee to take up agenda item 9 on the UNIDROIT already at this afternoon's meeting, the Secretariat would be happy to do that. So, Mr. Chairman, through you, I ask delegations if they wish to have agenda item 9 opened already now in

accordance with the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Colombia.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: OK, distinguished delegates, do you have any comments?

The distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Relating to the last observation made by the distinguished Secretary of our Legal Subcommittee concerning item 9 on UNIDROIT developments, I would like to support the original idea of the Secretariat to wait until the Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Martin Stanford, appears on Monday because there was a certain progress, I would say a substantial progress in the Committee of Experts that was sitting in December in Rome. It was the third session of this body and now it is the fourth session of this body that is being prepared and it should be, in principle, the finalizing session so I believe it would be useful indeed if the Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Stanford, opens the discussion on this particular subject and he does it usually very thoroughly and in detail and his reports are indeed very valuable. So this is my opinion.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic for your statement.

The distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. W. PARK (Republic of Korea): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I fully agree with the delegation of the Czech Republic especially in opening in the debate on agenda item 9 on Monday with the presence of the Secretary of UNIDROIT. Besides, I think we have to respect the Secretariat who knows best than anybody else, who knows better than anybody else how to organize our meetings in an efficient way.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea for your statement.

Any other comments?

Therefore, if there are no comments or suggestions, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 9 on Monday.

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

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

There are no speakers in my list.

Are there any delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item?

I see none.

We will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 12, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, on Monday morning.

Distinguished delegates, I give the floor to the Secretary, Mr. Hedman, for the explanation on item 7.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, delegations recall that we suspend our consideration under agenda item 7 (a) pending the adoption of the report of the Working Group and we have also today, this afternoon, concluded our consideration of agenda item 7 (b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit. Considering that we have time at our disposal, and considering that the distinguished delegate of Colombia asked for the possibility of still making a statement under agenda item 7 (b) on the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, Mr. Chairman, the Secretariat would simply propose that we re-open agenda item 7 (b) now immediately before the Working Group to hear this statement.

Matters relating to (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space, and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit (agenda item 7)

The CHAIRMAN: Now I would like to continue our consideration on agenda item 7 (b).

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman. I would like to thank the Secretariat and Niklas for his

understanding. I am lucky that it is Friday. But I must indeed follow my instructions. I hope that you understand that. This is not going to be anything terribly new in what I am going to be saying on the geostationary orbit.

I am going to say that the Colombian Government would like to indicate here that given the mandate issued by the United Nations General Assembly which has been given to COPUOS so that in the Subcommittee there be a renewal of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space restricting the scope of this Working Group's mandate to outer space exclusively. I would indeed like absolutely to call for the issue and the topic of the geostationary orbit to be retained here. Indeed, the Treaty and Regulations within the little book, the Handbook that the Secretariat's team has updated, and here I am saying A/AC.105/738/Annex.3, that is what I am referring to, dated 1996, is an extremely valid contribution. We believe indeed we should be pursuing this issue of the geostationary orbit. It is far from concluded this issue.

Our delegation has already raised some aspects related to that, space-based services, and we have already referred to the comparative advantage for equatorial area countries. The geostationary orbit is a limited natural resources and it risks to be saturated. It may well get saturated and it has to be used in a fair, equitable and fair fashion. The requirements and the concerns of the developing countries must be met, countries with geographical-specific situations as well. And this is what we have in paragraph 196 of the Constitution of the International Telecommunications Unit (Telecommunication Union?), as amended by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Minneapolis, United States of America, in 1998.

Chairman, I am saying this because the fact that one does not have a definition or a delimitation of outer space within the context of international law might result in having countries be inclined to establishing both the definition and the delimitation in their own national legislations which would make for diverging solutions, approaches and definitions and delimitations. So given the very positive framework of the work of our Subcommittee, then other committees indeed might get involved in this issue and this might be in contradiction to the general purposes of a legal solution and settlement to this issue. It is clear that there is over-exploitation, saturation of the geostationary orbit resources. And so it is necessary to factor in the legal, economic, social, all of the aspects of States with interests in this orbit so as to protect the interests of all and not just the interests of the countries

which are technically very advanced already. It is necessary for us to indeed comply with the MDG's. This is a limited natural resource and it has its specific characteristics and it risks becoming completely saturated. So, of course, it is necessary to ensure a fair and equitable access for all States to this resource, with due consideration for the specificities of developing countries.

This is a statement that you are familiar with. This is a statement which Colombia has been making for the last 20 years. As long as we have no adequate response to delimitation, this holds. So that is not new. But what is new that it is necessary for us not to indeed define the principle of delimitation but also the principle of fairness, equitable access, access to this resource, access to the whole of outer space, that is possibly something that we must define. I do not know whether this Subcommittee or the Committee intends to indeed address this matter. If we do not indeed, I think that we would be remiss because it is necessary for us to define fairness, what constitutes an equitable access. I believe that this is something which indeed is enshrined in the United Nations approach and will certainly be figuring large in the report of the proceedings.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia for his statement.

The next speaker is the distinguished representative of Ecuador. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Mr. J. ROSENBERG (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Sir. I did not intend to take the floor but since we are now considering this agenda item, I will make a brief comment.

I would like to say that we have already made our views and concerns known on this subject. Venezuela made a statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, so let me just say that Ecuador shares the concerns voiced and the interest expressed by our northern colleague, Colombia, and though this is a topic that was discussed several years ago, we would to have this reconsider. There have been a number of items that need clarification so it is useful to have this reconsidered and there are some loose ends that need to be tied. It is useful to have a consideration, therefore, on the orbit.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Ecuador for your statement.

Are there any other delegations?

The next speaker is the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. M. A. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia): Thank you Mr. Chairman and I thank the Secretariat who opened this again because actually I have something to think about and we have to think about it very carefully.

You know the INTELSAT(?), it is a company, it is not a country OK? And it is according to A/AC.105/C.2/L.278/Add.1, INTELSAT, saying over here, actually they have the heritage, the common heritage of the orbit and the frequency in the geostationary orbit. In 2001, the geostationary orbit is being declared an outer space and if it is an outer space, so there is no sovereignty to any country in that orbit and they have to be in a challenging point.

So, therefore, I would like to ask the Secretary. I would like to ask the Chairman and the Committee to be talking to the ITU, if they are not here, they left. It is actually how can we, there is a heritage, a common heritage of orbit because it is actually in the year 2008 the company of INTELSAT is being sold to another company and that means it is actually every time we will have the other organization to be doing that like this. So that means it is actually we are the countries who they have taken the _____(?) Plan in 1988. We will have a slot in space and a frequency. In 1988, it was very difficult for all these countries of the Third World to either purchase a satellite or manufacture a satellite in the frequency that it has been given. And now, everything has been occupied and we will have difficulties to have our own satellites to be launched. We have to coordinate and we have to coordinate with 51 satellites of INTELSAT and this is actually it is very difficult. We are not just only taking about administration, the United States administration and the United Kingdom administration and other administration, we are talking about satellite orbiting and they have frequencies and they have in orbit and then this is actually, I would like to have some way to have a written answer from the ITU to help us in how they know we cannot facilitate our rights to have a slot and frequency on the geostationary orbit as a Third World country.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia for your comments and suggestions.

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item 7 (b), the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit?

The distinguished representative of Colombia. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you so much Mr. Chairman and I do apologize to all distinguished delegates. Thank you for being so patient. Today is Friday and we will be finishing up, I can assure you.

I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia who does full well understand the concern, in a space that is not delimited, that is, and that is where the main concerns stemmed from.

It is true that the fact that there is saturation reduces the possibility of acting fairly and ensuring free access as a principle to those orbits. And even more than real saturation and objects there floating around, we also have paper satellites, as I would call them, because there are countries with a long list, registered without those objects really being circulating. This is another topic and one that is of concern to Colombia. We have repeatedly mentioned this in the 2009 Subcommittee but, of course, I stand to be corrected by the Secretariat and my dear friends there. If I am wrong, the Legal Subcommittee, if memory serves me right therefore, was through the Office for Outer Space Affairs going to try to cooperate with ITU and bring the COPUOS input to ITU to see how that inter-agency cooperation looks like that we would all like to have. I do not know whether this is the outcome of cooperation what has happened. Is there anything new that they could bring to our attention?

And as a final proposal, and distinguished colleagues and friends in the Secretariat, this delegation would venture to suggest that the legal set-up in the Office set-up provide us with a definition of equity or fairness or equitable access for the next session, if that were to be possible, of course.

Thank you so much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia for his statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item?

We do not have any speakers or any comments under agenda item 7 (a) and (b) and 12.

We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 7 (b). And there are no comments under agenda item 12,

Therefore, distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn the plenary meeting so that the Working Group on Agenda item 12 can hold its first meeting under the chairmanship of Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria.

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

We will meet promptly at 10.00 a.m. At that time, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 8, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, and 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.

We will continue our consideration of agenda item 12, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

As agreed, we will re-open our consideration of agenda item 5, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, as to discuss 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.

At the end of the plenary, there will be a technical presentation by the representative of Japan on "Japanese Space Law Legislation on Space Activities".

We will then adjourn the plenary meeting so that the Working Group on Agenda Item 12 can hold its second meeting under the chairmanship of Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I would like to inform delegations of the States that Daylight Saving Time in Vienna, Austria, on Sunday, 28 March 2010, which will make it necessary to move clocks and watches one hour forward.

I now invite Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria to chair the first meeting of the Working Group on Agenda Item 12.

This meeting is adjourned until 10.00 a.m. on Monday.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The meeting closed at 4.12 p.m.