

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

Unedited transcript

818th Meeting

Wednesday, 31 March 2010, 3 p.m.

Vienna

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

The meeting was called to order at 3.12 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I now declare open the 818th 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 conclude our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items.

We will continue the adoption of the remaining part of the report of the Legal Subcommittee.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session (agenda item 13)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items.

There are no speakers on my list.

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

I see none.

If the Subcommittee has no further statements under this item, may I take it that it wishes to consider in 2011 the items as set out under Point 1 of Conference Room Paper 17?

If I see no comments,

It is so decided.

May I also take it that the Subcommittee wishes to invite the IISL/ECESL to organize a symposium at its next session?

I see no comments.

It is so decided.

May I take it that the Subcommittee wishes to reconvene the Working Groups on the Status and Application of the Treaties, the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, in National Legislation, as recommended?

If I see no comments,

It is so decided.

May I take it that the sponsor of the items listed under item 4 in the Conference Room Paper wish

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to remain their purpose(?) for consideration by the Subcommittee in 2011?

I give the floor to the Secretary for a statement.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This morning we discussed this item and there was a wish from the distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic to add to the list a new item. I will try to read it out and interpret my own notes.

“Review of legal aspects of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with a view of transforming these into a set of principles on space debris to be worked out by the Legal Subcommittee and to be adopted by the General Assembly.”

And that would be then a proposal by the Czech Republic to be added to the list.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Secretary for your explanation.

Any comments?

I see no comments.

It is so decided.

We shall proceed accordingly and we have, therefore, concluded our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Agenda Items.

Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue with the adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee.

We shall start with outstanding paragraphs in the second part of the report contained in A/AC.105/C.2/L.279/Add.1, and then move to the first part of the report contained in A/AC.105/C.2/L.279, paragraph-by-paragraph.

Now we are on paragraph 39.

Any comments on paragraph 39?

I see none.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 40.

No objection.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 41.

No comments?

It is adopted.

Paragraph 42.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 43.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 44.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 45.

No objection.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 46.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 47.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 48.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 49. No comments.

No objection. *It is adopted.*

It is adopted. Paragraph 59.

Paragraph 50. No comments.

No comments. *It is adopted.*

It is adopted. Paragraph 60.

Paragraph 51. No comments.

No comments. *It is adopted.*

It is adopted.

Paragraph 52.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 53.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 54.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 55.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 56.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 57.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 58.

Distinguished delegates, we will go back to document A/AC.105/C.2/L.279/Add.1 because some of the delegations had a suggestion in the morning. Therefore, I give the floor to the Secretary to explain the suggestions of the distinguished delegates.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Delegations will recall that we had three outstanding proposals, one proposal from Saudi Arabia regarding paragraph 19, a proposal by Venezuela for a new paragraph 11 *bis*, and a proposal by Japan for a new paragraph to the section on capacity-building in space law.

With regard to paragraph 19, there is a proposal to amend paragraph 19 as follows: "Some delegations expressed the view that ..." and then the paragraph 19 remains and there will not be any further proposal for an additional paragraph in that regard.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you to the Secretary.

Any other comments?

Paragraph 19 as amended(?). No comments. Therefore is adopted.

I give the floor to the Secretary for the next suggestion.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Then we have a proposal from the distinguished delegate of Venezuela for a new paragraph 11 *bis* and we have been provided with the text which I will read out.

"The view was expressed that while considering the matters relating to the definition and

delimitation of outer space, the Subcommittee should take into account recent and future technological developments and that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should also consider this subject.”

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished Secretary.

Are there any other comments?

It is adopted.

I give the floor to the Secretary for another suggestion from the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is a proposal from the distinguished delegate of Japan for a new paragraph to be inserted as paragraph 29 *bis* and it reads as follows:

“The Subcommittee noted that the financial support provided by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for sending students in the Asia-Pacific region to the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) and other opportunities given by JAXA, in particular in the framework of Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSF).”

That is the proposal for paragraph 29 *bis*.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you to the Secretary for your explanation.

Are there any other comments?

No comments. Therefore, adopted.

It is adopted.

We have, therefore, adopted the second part of the draft report containing the document A/AC.105/C.2/L.279/Add.1.

Distinguished delegates, I give the floor to the Secretariat. They want to explain or schedule an agenda item.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, distinguished delegates, you may recall that for the first part of the report contained in document L.279, we had

a couple of outstanding proposals which we will have to deal with.

The Secretariat has received four proposals for new paragraphs to be included in the section on general exchange of views and the Secretariat is now typing these four proposals so they are clearly identifiable and they will be circulated to delegations as soon as possible.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, the Secretariat proposes that while we are waiting for these texts to be produced, we move on to Addenda 2 of document L.279 and adopt the paragraphs in that document.

The CHAIRMAN: Any comments?

We shall now go to the outstanding paragraph in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.279/Add.2, paragraph-by-paragraph.

The Draft Report on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, paragraph 1.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 2.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 3.

No objection.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 4.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 5.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 6.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 7.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 8.

OK, China. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

Mr. Y. XU (China): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under paragraph 8, China would like to propose to make a slight amendment to the very end of this paragraph, it starts from the “possibility of modifying some of the provisions of the existing legal system”. According to my understanding there are some suggestions to improve or consolidate the existing space law and it seems to me that perhaps we should change those parts into the following words:

“The possibility to improve the existing legal regime with more broader, more in general than modifying the existing provisions of the existing legal regime”.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Any other comments on paragraph 8?

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 9.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 10.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 11.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 12.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 13.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 14.

No comments.

It is adopted.

Paragraph 15.

No comments.

It is adopted.

I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Secretariat is soon ready to distribute the texts that I referred to earlier. However, we would need some more time. So, Mr. Chairman, with your permission and the Legal Subcommittee, we would propose that we suspend the meeting for 15 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no comments, we will suspend our meeting for 15 minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 3.51 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 4.40 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we shall now go to alter some new paragraph in the document. I give the floor to the Secretary for explaining the paragraph.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Delegations will recall that we have to go back to document L.279, which is the first part of our report, and we have a pending issue. The Secretariat has

conducted consultations and the Secretariat, after these consultations, will make the following proposal. It is a proposal for amendment to paragraph 32 of document L.279. And the paragraph will read as follows in its entirety:

“The Subcommittee was informed about the efforts being undertaken by EUTELSAT-IGO to address the repeated interference being experienced on several radio and television channels broadcast via EUTELSAT satellites, and the decision taken by the Radio Regulations Board of the International Telecommunication Union of 26 March 2010. Some delegations expressed their serious concern about the interference of satellite signals and referred to the relevance of this subject to item 5 of the agenda.”

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Secretary for your explanation.

Any comments?

I see none. Therefore, adopted.

I give the floor to the Secretary for another suggestion.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Secretariat has to bring delegations back to document L.279/Add.1. The Secretariat has been reminded that there was actually a request, a proposed paragraph, to be inserted in the section, 8. Capacity-Building in Space Law, and the paragraph would read as follows:

“The view was expressed that a Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the benefit of Arabic-speaking countries should be established.”

Mr. Chairman, this is the proposal for a paragraph to be included in the section Capacity-Building in Space and the Secretariat will look into the most appropriate place for the inclusion of that paragraph.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Secretary for the explanation.

Any comments?

I see none.

It is adopted.

I give the floor to the Secretary for another suggestion.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In fact, we have now concluded the adoption of the first part of the report, L.279, the second part of the report, L.279/Add.1 and the third part of the report, L.279/Add.2.

Tomorrow morning delegations will have before them the draft report of the Chair of the Working Group on National Space Legislation, agenda item 12. The Working Group will reconvene tomorrow morning to adopt its report. And, Mr. Chairman, thereafter, the Subcommittee will continue to adopt the remaining parts of the report.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you to the Secretary for the explanation.

Any other comments?

No comments.

Distinguished delegates, I will now adjourn this afternoon's meeting. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule for tomorrow morning.

We will meet promptly at 10.00 a.m. At that time, we will adjourn the plenary so that the Working Group on Agenda Item 12 can meet and adopt its report. We will then reconvene the plenary to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 12. Then we will continue our adoption of the remaining part of the report of the Legal Subcommittee.

Are there any questions or comments?

I see none.

This meeting is adjourned until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The meeting closed at 4.48 p.m.