

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Fifty-fourth session**

Unedited transcript

640th Meeting

Thursday, 9 June 2011, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Dumitru Dorin PRUNARIU (Romania)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN Good morning distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 640th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 7, report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session. We will also continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, space and climate change and agenda item 15, other matters.

Following the plenary there will be three technical presentations. The first by a representative of India entitled 'RESOURCESAT-2: Continuing global services in Earth observation'. The second by a representative of the International Academy of Astronautics entitled 'IAA 50 Years Anniversary and Heads of Space Agencies Summit' and the third by a representative of the International Academy of Astronautics entitled 'Sustainable use of space through orbital debris control'.

I would also like to inform delegates that today, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the demonstration on the desktop random positioning machine will take place in room M0E15. You have the information about the machine, how it looks and a few details about it. The demonstration is organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs as part of the Human Space Technology Initiative and shows how the machine can simulate weightlessness for living objects like plants, cells, bacteria, etc. The machine is an affordable means to get

involved with micro-gravity research activities and allows scientists to prepare experiments for space flight to run controlled experiments in parallel with space flight. It can also be used as an educational tool for students to learn about micro-gravity science. The information leaflet on this machine was distributed to delegations' pigeon holes yesterday afternoon. All delegates are cordially invited to this demonstration today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in room M0E15.

Today at 1-2 p.m. there will be consultations in room M7 on preparations for the fortieth anniversary of Landsat next year.

Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session (agenda item 7)

Distinguished delegates I would now like to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 7, report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session.

I would first like to give the floor to the Secretariat for information on the status of the revised non-paper distributed yesterday.

Are there any questions or comments from delegations on the proposed schedule? I see none.

The Secretariat has the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Distinguished delegates you will recall that yesterday you were provided with an updated version of this non-paper

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.

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containing nominations of members of expert groups and list of points of contact communicated to the Secretariat under the working group on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. I also announced to delegations that this non-paper will be further updated, corrected, there are certain typos in it will be corrected, I have also received some more nominations and will now be transformed into a conference room paper for the benefit of all delegations. If delegations have any corrections, adjustments, additions, to this paper, please give to the Secretariat before 1 p.m. today. We also heard yesterday the nomination of chair for expert group A and that was a nomination by Portugal for Mr. Duarte Santos. With that we have chairs or co-chairs for all of the expert groups, this is just for your information.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information.

Are there questions or comments? I see none.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item at this morning's session?

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I apologize for delaying us but for this delegation it is not entirely clear if the list of experts that we have before us is based on the names that were sent out in that note to the Secretariat. What is the process that we are going through? Who are the experts to be included in the group on space activities? How does it work? We send a note to the Secretariat or something that we do here? How does it work? Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Mexico. I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) First of all to explain. This is not a formal document and for formal decision by the Committee. This is a document, this document that we are referring to, that would provide the means for the expert groups to start working. We are all aware of the fact that there will be changes to the membership of the expert groups because there will be more experts coming in, more member States that would like to have their experts nominated. It is not for the Committee, and this is how the Secretariat understands the process, to elect or endorse or approve this list, this is for information purposes because this is under the mandate of the working group on long-term sustainability of outer space activities in the S&T to work on the list and to see how those expert groups will be developed. However, it was an agreement in the

S&T working group, during the S&T earlier this year, that the Secretariat should invite member States of the Committee and intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status of the Committee to communicate to the Secretariat nominations for members of the expert groups and chairs or co-chairs for the respective expert groups in order for the Committee and the whole process of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the working group to identify those expert groups and actually it was a date before the end of April this year.

The Secretariat sent out a note verbale to all member States of the Committee and we received the majority of the nominations that appear in this revised non-paper. However, during the session of the Committee, the Chair and the Secretariat asked delegations whether there was any updates to be made to this list and of course we are in the hands of delegations, how strict delegations wish to attach to this process of formalities. There have been statements made during the course of the debate during this session of the Committee of additional experts and also we received a nomination orally in a formal statement in plenary yesterday of a nomination for the chair of expert group A.

Mr. Chairman, maybe this is a good opportunity to ask the Committee what rules and procedures the Committee wishes to have with regard to the list of the membership of experts and also the chairs and co-chairs of these particular expert groups. So maybe, Mr. Chairman, it would be good to have it raised now, whether this process is agreeable that we have or whether member State delegations here would like to have a different set of rules and procedures for how to form those expert groups.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information. So actually the list is in the hands of the working group. This is just to start the work of the working group and, during the process of the work, they could update, change, elect, re-elect, and so on, the experts.

Are there any comments?

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) China would like to thank the Secretariat for the explanation of the ongoing process of nominations of experts for the expert group. My reading of this non-paper although it is an ongoing process, the information provided to us is not consistent because we know that some countries nominated a person, that others have nominated a department or agency, that there will be members from that department or agency will be the members of this

expert group. I wonder whether we should produce this list as a CRP document or stay at the status of a non-paper because it is still at a very early stage to prepare the list of experts. Maybe you can have a footnote to highlight that this document will be the basis for a future L document which will be tabled at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Then we have a whole text and make it clear that others can nominate experts to update this non-paper to make it clearer. CRP seems to me is a little bit too formal. I am not sure whether the Secretariat has the same feeling, we know it is an information for delegates, whether there is any other way to address it more pertinently.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of China.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) The Secretariat is of course in the hands of delegations and it is perfectly OK for the Secretariat to retain this as a non-paper. It would then be reflected in the report of the Committee that it is a non-paper. However, just to recall for your attention that if the terms of reference of the working group are being adopted during this session of the Committee, it is foreseen in the terms of reference and under the workplan of the working group that the expert groups should be able to start communicating within the expert groups. The Secretariat is really in the hands of delegations whether this is a process that should not be kicked off at this session or, whether it should just be a list of nominations to be determined at a later stage. The work of expert groups will not be able to commence after this session of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat.

Japan has the floor.

Mr. M. SUGAMIYA (Japan) Just a short remark on the statement made by China. About this non-paper/Rev.1, there is a mixture, the persons and organizations. Concerning Japan we are preparing to update and we will mention all the names of the persons and we will delete the name of the organization.

The CHAIRMAN Japan, thank you.

Mexico has the floor.

Mr. S. CAMACHO LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you for giving me the floor once again Mr. Chairman. In connection with what the Secretariat has just told us, my delegation is

of the view that the work should get underway. We need to have minimal structure which has been approved on the basis of what we discussed in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In fact here, what we are doing is merely applying this agreement, it is not the Committee saying to the Subcommittee how things should stand. This matter was discussed in the Subcommittee that these expert groups would be set up to enable us to move forward and not to lose time between now and next February it would be very welcome indeed if we could begin to work. As to the form in which that work can get underway, I think it would be an open-ended list in which States can make proposals for their experts with their contact information so it will be possible to begin and then, in February, we can hear what progress has been made in the interim period. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much Mexico.

You have to understand, we do not approve a list, we just inform about what was proposed and it is up to the working group to work with the list, work with the experts, to make changes and so on.

Are there any other comments?

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item 7 at this session?

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) The German delegation has voiced its concern about the long-term sustainability of UNSPIDER by a letter of our Minister responsible for space and I think the Committee should send a clear signal of support for SPIDER and we are looking forward to a formulation that really grasps what has been said here and what the needs are. I am still expecting a proposal for the wording and, in the meantime while we reflect how that could be expressed, I would suggest one formulation which can be also changed of course and I try to use consensus language here and maybe this can be discussed later on Friday. The suggestion would be

The Committee noted the proposed workplan for the biennium 2012-2013 for the UNSPIDER programme, then the reference number, and urged all member States to provide the programme the necessary resources which would ensure greater depth of the support to be provided by the programme and its regional support offices to member States. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that there was a need to maintain and strengthen the UNSPIDER programme on a long term and sustainable basis considering the knowledge portal, technical advisory

missions and capacity building as priority areas for the Secretariat, requesting it to report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session on its efforts to secure the necessary resources.

I think now since delegations do not have this in front of their eyes it is just a first comment and I would invite other delegations, who also view SPIDER as a priority area, to suggest other creative formulations in this regard.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Germany.

The distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia has the floor.

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) I think it is for the translation, the delegation of Germany was reading very fast, the translation from Arabic cannot be translated.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Maybe you spell once again the text you proposed to be translated by the translators.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) Or maybe we do it in a written form so that everybody can study it quietly. We can print it and hand it over to delegations.

The CHAIRMAN And we discuss when we reach the approval of the document of the report.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) I am of course ready to read it once more very slowly.

The CHAIRMAN Maybe once more very slowly to be understandable now by distinguished delegates who do not speak English and then you propose to the Secretariat in written form to be included.

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) The Committee noted the proposed workplan for the biennium 2012-2013 for the UNSPIDER programme, then the reference number A/AC.105... document dated 3 June, and urged all member States to provide the programme the necessary resources which would ensure greater depth of the support to be provided by the programme and its regional support offices to member States. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that there was a need to maintain and strengthen the UNSPIDER programme on a long term and sustainable basis

considering the knowledge portal, technical advisory missions and capacity building as priority areas for the Secretariat requesting it to report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session on its efforts to secure the necessary resources.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Germany.

The distinguished representative of the United States has the floor.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) Mr. Chairman we have not had a chance to study the proposal that was just read by our distinguished delegate from Germany but I have to say I do not really recall this kind of an analysis being done by the Committee. We did review the workplan during the S&T Subcommittee and at this Committee session for SPIDER and we were assured in looking at it that in fact that they had the resources to fulfil its mandate. So my delegation is questioning why we are concluding that, in fact there is something wrong here in terms of the resources needed to implement the SPIDER workplan.

Secondly, as my delegation has said repeatedly, the first priority for OOSA is servicing the Committee and its subcommittees and maintaining a registry of space objects and implementing the Space Applications Programme generally so I am hesitant to start pulling out specific areas that we are now going to be calling new priorities for the Office because our delegation does not necessarily agree with that. We will study the proposal but I just want to caution other delegations that we do not recall this kind of an analysis being done by the Committee and we are not convinced that there is a problem with sustaining the SPIDER programme as reflected in the workplan that the S&T Subcommittee approved and that this Committee will approve. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the USA.

Are there comments?

Mr. T. PFANNE (Germany) I completely agree with this observation and maybe one could strengthen the context in which this paragraph is supposed to be understood and if the formulation as priority areas seems too harsh or too strict in the eyes of other delegations, one could also imagine to put in the words, belongs in this context to priority areas.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished representative of Germany. I propose to have some consultations with the distinguished delegate of the USA this afternoon and maybe you formulate together, in accordance with the already approved documents, your proposal for the paragraph and to provide the Secretariat with this proposal to be included in the report and approved by the session.

China has the floor.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) Although China participated in the UNSPIDER donor meeting which happened during this session, we take note of the proposal made by our distinguished delegate of Germany but we still lack the context to give our careful consideration to the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Germany. I would like to highlight that I will reserve our right to go back to that proposal when there is a text for us to read in the context of the proposal and we will make our comments on that when the time proceeds to that part.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

My proposal is just to have some consultations and to propose the text to the Secretariat to be included. Germany, if you agree, you may lead the discussions because the proposal came from you.

The United Kingdom has the floor.

Ms. L. KEYTE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you to Germany for looking at text to accurately reflect our discussions in the report. I just want to make clear that what we are doing here is looking at how we can accurately reflect any discussions that have happened in the plenary, what we are not doing is writing text or having a new discussion on something to put into the report. If indeed we are re-opening up discussion under this, that is fine and I would expect the report to reflect this but I would not want us to start a process where we are editing or creating text to put into a report that in fact does not reflect what happened in plenary discussions.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of UK.

The proposal is just to express, in a concise way, what the discussions were about and to propose this to the Secretariat. Maybe the Secretariat did not catch exactly the discussions during the sessions or

something, if you have this concrete proposal, agreed by all member States, we include it in the report.

Are there any other comments? I see none.

Any other delegation wishing to speak under agenda item 7? I see none.

We have therefore concluded our consideration of agenda item 7, report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Space and climate change (agenda item 12)

Distinguished delegates I would now like to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, space and climate change.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Brazil.

Ms. R. DA FONSECA E SILVA (Brazil) Thank you Mr. Chairman. At this opportunity the Brazilian delegation would like to present some of the recent developments in space activities in Brazil which are relevant to this item of the agenda.

As we are all aware climate change and its impact have accelerated the need for monitoring deforestation at global level. For more than 20 years Brazil, through its National Institute for Space Research (INPE), has been systematically monitoring around four million square kilometres of the Amazon forest with the largest problem of forest monitoring in the world which is based on the use of satellite images and geo-technologies. Resulting finds from this monitoring activity have been made publicly available on the Internet to the international community.

Two main systems have assisted Brazil in this activity. PRODES which measures the Brazilian Amazon annual deforestation rate and DETER a real-time deforestation detection system which offers support to law enforcement agencies in the control of illegal deforestation. Brazil is continuously looking into ways of improving its monitoring capacities in order to be able to offer better quality data and more accurate information to the community. To that aim, a relevant initiative which is expected to contribute enormously to strengthen the Brazilian forest monitoring system is a recent cooperation established between INPE and JAXA from Japan in the use of multi-source Earth observation satellite data, in particular the Japanese ALOS PALSAR data, for the monitoring of tropical forests.

Beyond improving its monitoring capabilities in Amazonia Brazil also intends to extend them to include all other national biomes, this will represent a significant step to the country in the context of REDD+ as Brazil intends to address it at national level by developing MRV capability for all vegetation domains in the country. In order of priority, Brazil will focus on monitoring the Cerrado and the Caatinga biomes which are the second and third most relevant biomes in the country after Amazonia in terms of carbon stock and biodiversity.

Relevant to this, is the Brazilian Federal Government plan of action to prevent and control deforestation and biomass burning in Cerrado biome, developed under the Ministry of Environment in September 2010. Under this plan, Brazil will develop and implement an annual wall-to-wall monitoring system for this biome encompassing all vegetation types as well as developing and implementing a real-time monitoring system producing data and information that will allow better law enforcement and control. We understand that the know-how acquired by Brazil on the monitoring of the Amazon forest over the last 20 years can be instrumental to other countries that may wish to develop their own national systems for forest monitoring.

As a result of this view, Brazil has engaged in international cooperation initiatives aiming at promoting capacity building activities for developing countries on issues related to land monitoring. The objective of these activities will be to build technical expertise in developing countries and to help these countries in becoming autonomous in their land monitoring and reporting activities. Within this context, and as previously announced to this Committee, the Regional Center of the Amazon (CRA) was created by Brazil in 2008 with the specific purpose of providing training activities in forest monitoring using Terra-Amazon, the rainforest monitoring system of the Brazilian PRODES project.

Since then, international cooperation agreements have been signed by Brazil with JAXA from Japan, FAO and ACTO, to provide several training courses to interested countries over the next years. Between these three international agreements, a total of 13 courses have already been programmed in the Portuguese, Spanish, English and French languages. Under these agreements the first training course, coordinated by CRA, took place in October 2010 benefiting countries like Mexico, Guyana, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. At this very moment and up to 17 June, the second course of the series and the first in the Portuguese language is

being held at CRA for technicians from Angola, Mozambique and Paraguay.

Within the context of the UN Convention on Climate Change, the second national communication of Brazil to the UNFCCC, which occurred in 2010, includes the national inventory of net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions which has been significantly supported by remote sensing satellite data. This has allowed Brazil to construct land use transition matrices covering the entire national territory for the period 1994 to 2012. For the future, Brazil expects to produce national inventories on a more frequent basis.

In addition to its activities related to land monitoring in the period 2010/2011 Brazil, through INPE and its Weather Forecasting Climate Study Centre (CPTEC), has continued to improve its climate and meteorological services in the benefit of society including the implementation of an alert system for severe weather conditions. CPTEC has developed observational studies on climate change as well as global and regional modelling for future climate change scenarios for Brazil and South America. The recent acquisition of a new super computer in 2010, which started its operations at the beginning of this year, has placed Brazil amongst the meteorological centres with the greatest processing capabilities in the world. By increasing its processing capacity by 50 times, Brazil expects to see a significant impact in its ability to deliver meteorological and weather services and products to society. It should be able to deliver weather forecasts with increased reliability and further in advance as well as with better quality increasing the detail level to 5 kilometres in South America and 20 kilometres for the entire globe. It will also be able to predict extreme events such as heavy rain, hail, frost, fog, high winds, heatwaves, among others, with good reliability.

The acquisition of the new super computer by Brazil coincides with the time when INPE, through CPTEC, receives from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) the recommendation to become a Global Producing Centre (GPC) of long-term forecasts in recognition of the international quality of its production of seasonal climate forecasts. The advance in computation and infrastructure is accompanied by investment in training and hiring of specialists in modelling as well as practitioners engaged in the task of extracting the maximum performance of computational basis such as the one of CPTEC. For this new phase, scientists from major research centres in the United States and England will join the modelling team at CPTEC in order to bring new advances and contributions to the areas of assimilation

and prediction of weather and climate. Together the latest technological and human resources advances are expected to significantly support CPTEC continuing R&D efforts in modelling. By improving its modelling capability, Brazil also expects to strengthen its engagement with the global climate modelling community and increasingly contribute to the development of future emission scenarios that constitute fundamental information for the IPCC assessments. Regional climatic models are also expected to generate more accurate results which are essential to guide adaptation activities.

Mr. Chairman, on space technology developments relevant to this item of the agenda, besides the China/Brazil earth resource satellite CBERS-3 expected to be launched in 2012 to other satellite missions currently being developed in Brazil should be mentioned. Amazonia-1 which is a Brazilian dedicated satellite for the monitoring of forests and agriculture in the world's tropical regions, planned for launch in 2014 and, SabiaMar an ocean colour satellite mission which will be developed through joint cooperation between Brazil and Argentina. SabiaMar will provide data for studies of ocean ecosystems, carbon cycle, marine habitat mapping, coastal management and other related applications.

Mr. Chairman, before concluding this presentation, please allow us to introduce some comments on the Brazilian Space Weather Programme. A Brazilian Space Weather Programme (EMBRACE) was created in 2007 at the National Institute for Space Research in Brazil under support of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Brazil has three singular points regarding space weather and climate.

One is the equatorial ionospheric anomaly, the formation of plasma debris along the geomagnetic low latitudes, 12° North and South, which cause error in the GPS positioning system.

A strong equatorial ionospheric scintillation affect on radio wave communications is another concern.

The third point is the South Atlantic magnetic anomaly zone where the magnetic field strength is almost half compared to other regions. Consequently a large amount of high energy particles penetrate into the upper atmosphere and ionosphere. The information of geomagnetic activity for satellite operation is therefore crucial.

The present space weather programme is aimed at monitoring, nowcasting and predicting

forecasting this space weather _____(?) information. The Brazilian Space Weather Programme joined the International Space Environment Service (ISES) in October 2008 as one of the Regional Warning Centres (RWC). In August 2009, daily publication of a space weather bulletin started in the website www.inpe.br/climaespacial/index.php. Acquisitions of solar radio telescope, ionospheric sensors and magnetometers, started in 2010 with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology. The construction of a Space Weather Information Forecast Centre also started in 2010. As part of an international cooperation scheme, the Brazilian Space Weather Programme participates in the Inter-programme Coordination Team on Space Weather (ICTSW) of WMO in order to establish the space weather service activities in WMO. Additionally an international collaboration with China, through its Center for Space Science and Applied Research (CSSAR), was established in 2010 which includes cooperation in this field. Amongst other things, simultaneous monitoring of the ionosphere along the _____(?) region from South America to Asia is planned under this cooperation. The first workshop on the Meridian project was held in Hainan, China, in February 2011.

Mr. Chairman, the Brazilian delegation wishes to thank you very much for granting us the opportunity to share some information and views on agenda item 12, space and climate change.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Brazil for her statement.

The last speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of South Africa.

Ms. E. HABER (South Africa) Thank you Chair and thank you for granting us the opportunity to give some views on how we apply space technology in South Africa to combat climate change.

In a country as geographically and biologically diverse as ours, space technology is an important medium for us to obtain information related to food security, environmental resource management, to monitor climate change, water security and disaster management. Although we have high aspirations in terms of where we want to go with our space programme we are, for the moment, concentrating on Earth observation satellites, in all these satellites support sustainable development.

The South African government makes use of space technology and data for a wide range of activities and services. Global Navigation Satellite Systems such

as GPS, Geographic Information Services, are extensively used by the Departments of Transport, Agriculture, Land Affairs, Water Affairs and Forestry. Apart from positioning systems, satellite imagery is indispensable for monitoring purposes to identify water usage violations, monitoring fishing activities and assisting in land usage efficiency and urban planning.

In this regard, international collaboration is important for the functioning of the Group of Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and, in South Africa, we can already see the impact it has on both our Earth observation plans and on the ground in terms of policy making and adaptation to a change in climate. Another South African Earth observation strategy, our response to GEOSS process. we are looking at how to combine _____(?) and satellite data to understand the impact of climate change within the southern African region. This has inspired the country to develop a grand challenge climate change where we examined how we could use our geographic advantages to make measurements that will contribute to the global understanding of climate change.

One of the conclusions that we reached was at the junction of the cold south Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean off the coast of South Africa near Cape Agulhas. An excellent laboratory exists to study the interactions of oceans and their atmospheric convection currents that result from this junction. This may become the study field of science missions for our next generation of satellites. We are also discussing a possible geostationary satellite over Africa.

Due to the space technology being such a specialized field and the need to share data, technology transfer among nations remain a priority and in this respect we have seen a number of countries making data available to developing countries and to Africa in particular. The partnership between China and Brazil is making data from their China/Brazil Earth resource satellite available to Africa, South Africa has upgraded a ground station to download their data. We have Landsat data from the US Geological Survey made available free of charge for our scientific work on climate change including historic data for tracking changes that have already taken place. Japan and other partners are providing digital elevation data to track changes in elevation as a result of climate change. This is all part of creating GEOSS.

South Africa has translated Earth observation and climate projections into a language of risk management that would assist decision makers through the risk and vulnerability atlas recently published. The atlas is a single point of entry form, all information and

advice to policy makers, it provides access to information on the impacts of climate change in our region. Our vision is that scientists will be able to look at the areas that have potential vulnerability due to climate changes and to use the publication or electronic atlas to illustrate the most vulnerable areas. People at local level could then identify potential risks and take the necessary steps to deal with that. An agricultural area that is going to be hit with drought because of climate change for example, could respond by favouring certain crops or by protecting land that will become more attractive for agriculture.

The importance of sharing data and information cannot be overstressed. Climate researchers in South Africa have started to receive surface and atmospheric data gathered by _____(?) satellite. A collaborative gesture intended to fend off desertification and manage other unwanted consequences of climate change and rapid development. The data gathered by _____(?) multi-angle image spectro-radiometer includes observations of the vegetative structure, airborne pollution, cloud heights and wind patterns. More than 30 terabytes of data were furnished to a distribution centre in Africa for wider dissemination to researchers who have not been able to gain direct access because of Internet bandwidth limitations. While South Africa is in essence a water-stressed arid land, one of our main objectives is to prevent land degradation and desertification which is the gradual transformation of habitable land into water deprived terrain through destructive land use practices and climate change.

The environment is for the people of Africa the biggest source of our natural capital and it is also the most vulnerable source on which we are dependent for our development and continued existence. Space technology has enabled South Africa to refine our management policies and plans when it comes to dealing with animals such as elephants and rhinos that are both vulnerable to poaching activities. It has also enabled us in South Africa to react in a proactive manner to address illegal harvesting of abalone and endangered fish species, such as the Patagonian toothfish. Space technology has further assisted our decision makers to address piracy activities along the Mozambique channel and closer to Madagascar.

Through the application of space technology we have been able to predict the change in climatic conditions that is to be expected as a result of a change in climate. Earth observation satellite technologies allow land degradation processes to be monitored over time. Monitoring desertification, land degradation and drought requires continuous evaluation, some of which

can be retrieved with Earth observation technologies and state-of-the-art geospatial applications. Applications of this nature are of extreme significance for a region that is subjected to environmental challenges which include food security and vector borne diseases. The impact of climate change can already be seen, especially in our agricultural sector and the environmentally fragile western part of the country. Through satellite images, we have been able to determine the influence of the change in sea temperature on the nurseries and spawning grounds of the most important commercially fished species which are vulnerable to temperature rise of the oceans. Observational studies have shown that the large scale current system around South Africa will change in the average physical properties and behaviour in the next 50 years due to the anthropogenically induced alterations to the Earth's atmosphere.

In conclusion, my delegation is firmly of the opinion that challenges facing our society through the current and anticipating evolution of our climate are very real. Space-borne observations provide an irreplaceable source of data to study, detect and monitor climate changes, to predict its evolution and to anticipate its consequences. Satellites now provide a vital means of obtaining observations of the climate system from a national to a near global perspective. It is further my delegation's opinion that to successfully tackle global climate change intense international cooperation in particular in the space environment should be strengthened. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of South Africa for her statement.

Are there any other considerations on agenda item 12, space and climate change? I see none.

We have therefore concluded our consideration of agenda item 12, space and climate change.

Other matters (agenda item 15)

Composition of the bureau

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 15, other matters, on the following subitems: composition of the bureau; membership of the Committee; observer status; organizational matters; General Assembly panel discussion; provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee.

I give the floor to the Secretariat to inform us about the composition of the bureau. No?

Distinguished delegates. The current status of nominations for the bureau of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2012-2013 is reflected in the report of the Committee at its fifty-third session A/65/20, paragraphs 301, 303, and in paragraphs 36, 38, of General Assembly resolution 65/97.

Delegates have received information of the following nominations.

A/AC.105/2011/CRP.5 with the nomination of Mr. Tare Brisibe of Nigeria as the candidate of the African Group to the office of chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2012-2013.

A/AC.105/2011/CRP.3 with the nomination of Mr. Piotr Wolanski of Poland as the candidate of the Eastern European Group to the office of second vice-chair, rapporteur, of the Committee for the period 2012-2013.

I would like to recall that in paragraph 38 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly agreed that upon the nomination of the candidate of the group of African States and the candidate of the group of Eastern European States, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should elect their officers for the period 2012-2013. With these two nominations the bureau for the period 2012-2013 is complete and, if there are no objections, the Committee and its subcommittees should elect their respective officers of the bureau in their respective sessions in the next year.

Are there any comments? No. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates I would like now to draw attention of delegations to A/AC.105/2011/CRP.4 with the nomination of Mr. Elöd Both of Hungary as the candidate of the Eastern European Group for the office of chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2014-2015.

If there are no objections, we will duly note this nomination. Are there any objections? I see none. Thank you.

Nominations for the other officers of the bureau for the period 2014-2015 should be presented to the Committee at its fifty-fifth session in 2012.

Membership of the Committee

Distinguished delegates, the Committee will now decide on the application of Azerbaijan for membership with the Committee to be recommended

for final decision by the General Assembly. The application is contained in A/AC.105/2011/CRP.7.

Are there any objections? I see none.

I take it that the Committee agrees to recommend to the General Assembly the granting of membership in the Committee of Azerbaijan.

It is so decided.

Mr. A. HAJIZADA (Azerbaijan) Distinguished delegates, on behalf of my country I would like to thank the delegations that have expressed their valuable support to our nomination for the membership in COPUOS and it is an honour that this issue is positively considered by member States. In addition, we want to recognize the staff and leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for all their hard work in assisting with the planning and organization of this meeting and for their continued support.

We would like to reiterate that Azerbaijan commitment to the use of outer space for peaceful purposes in the common interest of mankind. Azerbaijan is confident that its membership in COPUOS will help further expand its capabilities in space technology and applications area, as well as make an important contribution to international cooperation. Azerbaijan will demonstrate strong capabilities in the applications of space science and technology for development and make valuable contributions to the deliberations in COPUOS.

In conclusion, I would like to extend once again the full support of Azerbaijan to the Committee in its highly responsible work on maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of Azerbaijan.

Czech Republic has the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) Mr. Chairman, my delegation did not object against the admission of Azerbaijan as a new member of the Committee, on the contrary we believe that this will be very helpful for our future work. However, I have in my hands the status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2011 and I regret to bring to the attention of the Committee that Azerbaijan so far has not ratified any United Nations space treaty. I believe that when we elected

Azerbaijan it would also mean that we encouraged that country to do something in this respect and to consider very urgently the possibility of accession to all, or at least some, United Nations space treaties. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic for your valuable observation.

Are there any other comments?

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) Nigeria has listened to the contributions of the bureau and the delegation wishes to accept the responsibility for the chairman of the Legal Subcommittee and Dr. Brisibe is here, who is the next chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

Are there any other comments? I see none.

Observer status

Distinguished delegates, the Committee at its fifty-third session took note of the application of the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World. The Committee agreed to invite the Association to participate in its fifty-fourth session as well as in the sessions of the subcommittees in 2011 with a view to the Association's provision of additional written information and that a decision of its application will be made by the Committee at that session, A/65/20, paragraphs 309-310. Additional written information on the request for observer status of the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World was made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session, A/AC.105/C.1/2011/CRP.18 and Add.1 and to the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session, A/AC.105/C.2/2011/CRP.11.

The Committee has before it for its consideration the documentation submitted with respect to this application, as contained in CRP.6 before you.

If I hear no objections, I take it that the Committee agrees to recommend to the General Assembly the granting of permanent observer status with the Committee to the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World.

Are there any objections? I see none.

It is so decided.

Saudi Arabia has the floor.

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*) Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Saudi Centre for Remote Sensing and the other Arab centres that form part of the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World and I am speaking also as a representative of the host country for that Association, let me express our thanks to all member States for having granted us observer status.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

The Committee at its fifty-third session agreed that the Secretariat should contact the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council to verify the application process and the duration of the procedure for granting consultative status with the Council, A/65/20, paragraph 313.

The Committee has before it, information in that regard contained in A/AC.105/2011/CRP.8.

I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Distinguished delegates, as the Chairman said, you have before you conference room paper 8. The Secretariat contacted, as requested by the Committee, the Division of Non-governmental Organizations in New York for information to be provided to the Committee. The Division sent a message that clearly referred to the information provided on the website of that particular division in New York. However, the Secretariat during the deliberations in the General Assembly Fourth Committee of our agenda item, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, also paid a visit to that particular division and had a discussion to verify the information as requested. Delegations have before them, in CRP.8, a note by the Secretariat on this information that we have received from this particular body in the United Nations system, background information and the application process as explained to us by that particular body or the Secretariat. To be clear we have also, in an annex to this conference room paper, provided stepwise from the website of that body how non-governmental organizations should proceed with registering an application for consultative status.

We have also provided in an annex II to this document, the current ECOSOC status of non-governmental organizations having observer status

with the Committee. This is an update to the document that delegations were provided with at our last session in 2010 and there is an attached note of explanation to the different types of status that non-governmental organizations can have with ECOSOC.

So, Mr. Chairman, this is the information provided by the Secretariat to delegations and, from the Secretariat's perspective, any non-governmental organization that wishes to apply for such consultative status with ECOSOC is encouraged to contact the appropriate body within the Secretariat dealing with these matters and also to carefully read the instructions on the website of this particular body of the UN system dealing with consultative status with ECOSOC.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information.

Are there any comments?

Mr. M. CASTILLO (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) I will be very brief. I just want to mention two items. First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the fine work it has performed and its dedicated work on this item. Secondly, our delegation will make a more complete statement on this matter, this afternoon. Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat for a very thorough job it has done in providing this information concerning ECOSOC and the status of NGOs.

I would like to go to annex II of CRP.8 just for clarification. In the column, ECOSOC status, the notation is 'no entries'. I assume that means that that particular organization has not taken steps to seek status with ECOSOC. For the other notations that we see here, it could be that they have sought recognition by ECOSOC but ECOSOC has not taken action. If you look at page 9, we have an explanation of the general, special and roster status of organizations so, my reading of this, I conclude that an NGO that is here in COPUOS and has sought recognition by ECOSOC may not necessarily get that recognition not because they are unworthy it is because their particular area of interest is fairly narrow and that is what I think I see reflected here. Perhaps the Secretariat could just go through this list for us and clarify who has not applied for status, if they applied for status, have they been

given the full recognition by ECOSOC or only partial recognition, as reflected on page 9 of CRP.8. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of USA for your comments.

I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. S. NEGODA (Deputy Secretary) In response to the distinguished delegate of the United States, we are in a position to convey the following. This table represents the result of our work which we conducted by simply searching the database through the search engine located on the web page of ECOSOC. We are not in a position to comment on whether any organization took particular steps towards applying or not. From my personal impression, the database is quite accurate and regularly updated however, this notion of 'no entries' may mean that consideration of membership is underway or there may still be procedural measures. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) China would also like to thank the Secretariat for the work done on this very important issue. We will look through this table and we have the same feeling as voiced by the US but my solution is different than to put the question to the Secretariat. We know that the Secretariat cannot look to the details of each organization whether they fulfil the requirement under this Committee. My feeling is that we have seen somewhere a positive signal during this session, if my memory is correct, that we hear some permanent observers to update us on their dialogue with ECOSOC in their pursuit of consultative status. I mention ESPI so we perhaps could encourage those permanent observers to update us as to whether they participated in these subcommittee sessions as well as the full Committee sessions.

I would also like this opportunity to draw your attention to paragraph 311 of last year's report. We agreed that the provisional observer status could be extended for another year. First we agreed that only extend for a period of three years, so it applies to those organizations in this table because we know that some of them acquired the permanent observer in 2010. That term of the provisional observer will last until 2013 or 2014 so we have to fulfil that new requirement we agreed at the Committee, it is a time of urgency for their pursuit to acquire consultative status. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

Distinguished representative of China and other delegations, in paragraph 311 of last year's report of the Committee it is written 'The Committee agreed that observer status would be granted to non-governmental organizations on a provisional basis for a period of three years pending information on the status on their application for consultative status with ECOSOC.'

So it applies to the new organizations, some organizations that already have the permanent observer status. I just question how your comment applies to all organizations or to the new ones?

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) Thank you for posing that question. If my reading of the last General Assembly resolution ____ (?) that there is one of the NGOs will be in the scope of application because that is IAASS get permanent observer status from last year adopted by the General Assembly resolution. It seems to me that last year's report decision does cover the new permanent observer NGOs although I am not insisting that there is only three years for permanent status, we can extend for another year if necessary but we have to take the rules as we agreed last year because there will be a start of the application of those rules otherwise they will stay on paper, it has to be enforced. Maybe from any new application for permanent observer status but it seems to be that IAASS is covered by that rule.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China.

Any other comments?

Mr. M. CASTILLO (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) My delegation fully concurs with the explanation which has just given by the Chinese delegation and we wish to endorse this and support it. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

Saudi Arabia has the floor.

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*) First of all let me thank the Secretariat for having done an excellent job and let me say that, as concerns the Prince Abdulaziz Association the documents have already been

submitted but they were returned and we were requested to return them once again through the database. I just wanted to inform you that we are in the process of doing that. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Any other comments?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) I have a minor technical question. I carefully read the document that was provided to us, application process established for NGOs to obtain consultative status. The adjective 'permanent' consultative status has not been used. Could the Secretariat explain what is the correct name for this important status.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) In this Committee, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we use the term permanent observer status with the Committee, this is what we use.

For ECOSOC, they have a completely different terminology for the different types of status as are explained on page 9 of this document. The consultative status, roster status, there are different types of status, they do not use 'permanent' as we do in the Committee. These are different types of status with the respective organizations or intergovernmental bodies of the UN system that we are dealing with here.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information.

Are there any other comments on this issue? I see none.

I have to inform the session about the consultations we held this morning on other matters, organizational matters mainly. We analysed the proposals for optimizing the time of the subcommittees according to the decisions taken in the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The view was expressed that some of those recommendations could apply also to the Main Committee. They include mainly the limitation, the strong recommendation to delegations to limit their statements to 10 minutes and the view was even expressed that the Chairman or the Secretariat, after 10 minutes, could somehow inform the delegation that they overstep the time.

Another issue was that the technical presentations should not be more than 15 minutes in length and also the fact that the slot for technical presentations should be registered with the Secretariat before the session and the last day for updating the slots for these technical presentations is the first day of the Committee. At the same time, delegations are requested to inform to what item of the agenda the presentation belongs to. Sometimes there are presentations that are completely different than what is being discussed during the Committee according to the approved agenda. These were the proposals agreed by the member States that took part in the informal consultations and the proposal is to include them in the report as recommendations of our Committee for the next session of the Committee as well.

Are there any other comments or proposals connected with this optimization of the work of the Committee? I see none.

The proposal to limit the time, to recommend that member States limit their presentations to 10 minutes, we will take the formulation from the paragraph from the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and adopt to the full Committee because that was already included in the report and the recommendations to limit the time of the technical presentations to 15 minutes and to inform the Secretariat about the slots for technical presentations. So the technical presentations could be taken by a memory stick on the day when they make the presentation, just to make a reservation for the slot. The last day for updating this list of presentations should be the first day of the Committee and no other presentation accepted after this deadline. We will formulate it in proper language and include it in the report.

Any comments? I see none.

General Assembly panel discussion

Distinguished delegates, in paragraph 42 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that a panel discussion on space and emergencies was held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 October 2010 and agreed that a panel discussion should be held at the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly on a topic to be selected by the Committee, taking into account the panel discussions held on climate change, food security, global health, and emergencies.

I now open the floor for proposals on the topic for this year's panel discussion at the meeting of the

Fourth Committee of the General Assembly this year when the Fourth Committee considers its item, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I am waiting for your proposals distinguished delegates.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) My delegation would like to suggest that we have a panel discussion at the General Assembly during the Fourth Committee that would focus on the substance of CRP.9 which is our draft contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. That Conference will be taking place next year, this will be an opportunity to highlight the use of space in sustainable development and, as all delegations would agree, CRP.9 is an extremely good paper and there would be plenty of material in this paper that could serve as a basis for presentations made by various experts on a panel at the GA. My delegation would suggest that we use this particular topic as the basis for the panel discussion at the Fourth Committee this year. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished delegate of the United States.

Are there any comments on the proposal made by the United States?

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) Very briefly, China would support the proposal made by the US delegation on the topic for the General Assembly panel discussion. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you distinguished delegate of China.

Are there any other comments on the proposal made by the United States?

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) Switzerland would also support very much the proposal made by the delegation of the United States of America. Indeed, it is very timely for the Committee to show how to better understand how space technologies can be used to have sustainable development on Earth especially with respect to the commemorative segment that we had last week here in Vienna.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of Switzerland for your comment.

Are there any other comments?

Mr. M. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*) Saudi Arabia wishes to express its support for the proposal from the United States. We hope to be able to take part in that panel. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN Thank you Chairperson for giving me this opportunity to talk on this suggestion. Myself and the Second Vice-Chairperson have had discussions around this and we support the proposal by the United States as well as proposing a topic in this regard which goes 'use of space-based technology to monitor man-made and natural disasters for effective management of climate change, food security and global health'. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the first vice-chairman for her comment.

Are there any other comments?

We take and include in our report the decision to have a theme for the panel the proposal made by the United States and sustained by so many members. Thank you very much.

I give the floor to the Secretariat to make some more comments on other matters.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Just to recall what other issues we have under this agenda item, other matters. We have one issue which is reflected in the annotated provisional agenda on page 8, which refers to the issue of how to reflect statements made on behalf of regional and interregional groups. Then we also have the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee and lastly the Secretariat is able to provide you with information on the time of the respective sessions next year.

Mr. Chairman, just to recall for the attention of delegations that, on page 8 of the annotated provisional agenda, as delegations recall last year the Committee agreed to include the names of regional groups in the paragraphs listing the speakers under each agenda item in the reports of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Scientific and Technical Committee, at its forty-eighth session this year, recommended to the Committee to extend the provisions contained in paragraph 325 of the report of the Committee on its

fifty-first session to the Group of 77 and China and other interregional groups. For your information distinguished delegates this was debated during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the compromise and emerging consensus at that time was what I have read out here.

At the Legal Subcommittee this year the report, which you have before you, applies specifically to what has actually emerged out of this year of discussions. As you see in the report of the Legal Subcommittee, under each agenda item there is a list of those States that addressed that particular agenda item as well as regional and interregional groups, so the G77 and China and other regional groups are listed there. It is also included a reference to statements made by member States if they were relating to this substantive agenda item but included in general exchange of views and the same applies to the regional groups. This is the method that we used during the Legal Subcommittee.

In the draft report that we will have before us for adoption for this session of the Committee we will apply, or we have already applied because it is too late to go back, the same method as was used by the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat.

Now I give the floor again to the Secretariat for the provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee.

Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) I refer delegations to paragraph 339 of last year's report of the Committee in A/65/20. With the decisions made under the substantive discussions during this session the list of the substantive agenda items for COPUOS next year would then be as follows.

General exchange of views;

Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

Implementation of the recommendations of the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session;

Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session;

Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status;

Space and society;

Space and water;

Space and climate change;

Use of space technology in the United Nations system;

Future role of the Committee;

Other matters.

It will be recorded in the draft report the decisions made with regard to the item on space and water to focus attention on a special theme that was introduced by the distinguished delegate of Austria and which gained support in the discussions under space technology management and ecosystem.

Can you please repeat exactly the title of that specific theme, the distinguished delegate of Austria.

_____ (Austria) I think it was space and ecosystem management.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Thank you for helping the Secretariat out there.

So, distinguished delegates, this is the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee that I related to. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information.

A comment from the Czech Republic please.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) I fully agree with the items that have been read by our distinguished secretary but, if we compare this proposal with the agenda of this year's session of the subcommittee, there is still item 16 namely report of the Committee to the General Assembly. Is there any reason why it was omitted?

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) In the report of the Committee last year we only listed the substantive items which means that, opening of the

session and then next year we would have election of officers of the bureau. There will be a statement of the chair as well as the report to the General Assembly which actually is the adoption of the report of that particular session. Those items are not included in this specific list, here we only list the substantive items for consideration. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information.

Are there any other comments?

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) As other delegations are aware, today at 1 p.m. we will have informal consultations on possible commemorative events for the fortieth anniversary of Landsat. One of the issues that we will deal with is when would we do this? Either during the S&T Subcommittee or perhaps during the full Committee? I would ask that perhaps we might adjust next year's work depending on the results of our informal consultations, so this afternoon or tomorrow morning can we revisit this question of what might be on the agenda.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the USA. I was informed it was an informal consultation that was planned on this topic.

Are there any other comments?

I give the floor to the Secretariat to inform delegations about the dates of the future sessions.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) For 2012, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will meet from 6-17 February. The Legal Subcommittee will meet from 19-30 March and the Committee will meet from 6-15 June. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for this information.

Are there any other comments? I see none.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) We have no problem with the dates for next year's session. We have the provisional agenda for next year's Committee session. I think the Secretariat still read the future rule of the Committee. I just try to draw the Secretariat's attention to paragraph 337 of last year's report, that item was kept and a new item only for one year, so with that _____(?) next year's session mean that we extend that, keep it as a new agenda item for next year. We fully

agree with that but just clarification from the Secretariat.

The CHAIRMAN Yes, distinguished representative of China. As you recall during this session, a proposal was made to extend for one more year this agenda item and there were no comments and no objections of this proposal, so we accepted it and included it in the agenda for next year.

Any other comments? No.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*) I apologize for reacting after you have already closed the subject. What we wanted to talk about is not directly linked to what we were discussing but it does concern the agenda item before us. We would like to recall the declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary, which we adopted on 1 June last week, could we clarify what is going to happen to that declaration. We may have missed some information here but it seems to us that the future of that declaration has not yet been discussed in this Committee and therefore has not been determined. We would like to suggest that this declaration be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly and that the General Assembly might consider a resolution in that regard. This is our proposal to the Committee for a possible decision. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Switzerland for her comments.

As we recall during the first day we adopted the declaration, so it is no way to discuss it anymore, it is adopted. We proposed that the declaration should be included as an annex of the report of this year and submitted, together with the report, to the General Assembly. The declaration will be the appendix of annex I. Annex I of the report will refer to the commemorative segment of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the appendix to this document is the declaration, we adopted on the first day and it will be part of the report submitted to the General Assembly.

Is there any other proposal connected with...

Nigeria has the floor.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) I go back to what our distinguished delegate from Switzerland just

brought to our attention. Is there a way the declaration is going to be reflected in the omnibus resolution? Or, is there a possibility to have a special resolution just for the declaration?

The CHAIRMAN The floor is open for comments and we can agree upon this.

Mr. Y. ZHAO (China) As to your question, I do think that it is not proper for us to address the outcome form of this declaration. My concern is what has been raised by our Swiss delegation is that, next year whether there should be a follow-up to that declaration is the Committee's work because if the General Assembly adopted a resolution, or have a kind of task assigned to this Committee, then there should be an agenda item to implement that declaration in the future. Since we have kept the item of the future role of this Committee perhaps we can think about whether we can, under that agenda item, discuss or implement any follow-up arrangement delivered by the General Assembly. As to the form of the declaration, we can have an in-depth discussion but the final decision was with New York by the General Assembly to decide how to reflect the outcome of this high-level segment and its declaration. As to next year's work which might relate to this declaration, we have to make a decision at this session. It seems to me that perhaps we can add a footnote to the agenda item of the future role of the Committee to make it possible that next year, if there is any follow-up arrangement, we can discuss it under that agenda item. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of China.

USA has the floor.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) My delegation would be quite happy to proceed with the declaration as you have described which is annexed to our present report and certainly, in the omnibus resolution, we could draw people's attention to the fact that there is this declaration. Unfortunately, I do not think another separate resolution is going to be all that helpful because there already is one dealing with the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight that was passed in the General Assembly in April so all we are going to be doing is adding another declaration to commemorate the same event. That does not really strike me as being all that useful. Clearly, if we did not have the resolution that was passed in April this might have made more sense but with the fact that something has already been passed by the General Assembly, adding another separate resolution on this item I do not think would serve much of a purpose. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of the USA.

Are there any other comments?

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*) We are aware that a resolution has already been adopted by the General Assembly on 12 April 2011 which is about the fiftieth anniversary of the first manned space flight. On that occasion, 12 April was also proclaimed to be International Day of Manned Space Flight which was something we welcomed and salute. Our proposal had to do with highlighting the work of this Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of this Committee and, in that regard, our proposal was very well re-phrased by the delegation of Nigeria. We suggested that the declaration, which was adopted last year by the commemorative segment of this Committee, be the subject for a resolution either an independent resolution of the General Assembly or be annexed as part of an omnibus resolution of the General Assembly on outer space activities. We are open to various options, the idea is to provide greater visibility to the work of COPUOS, to its role and to its activities. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of Switzerland for her comments.

Are there any other comments to the proposal made by Switzerland?

So we analyse the procedures that includes your proposal. The content of the declaration, the main issues of the declaration, will be included in the omnibus resolution of the General Assembly on space activities. This is what I proposed.

USA has the floor.

Mr. J. HIGGINS (United States of America) The concern that my delegation has is that the declaration is the result of a considerable amount of negotiation here in the Committee, the declaration has been adopted and it cannot be revised again. If you make it a separate resolution then immediately it is subject to negotiation because member States should have that opportunity. If you make parts of the declaration part of the omnibus resolution we run into the same thing because we will then open up what has been agreed to, for further negotiation. Perhaps the best way to proceed would be to annex the declaration to the omnibus resolution, there it remains intact and it has a visibility that we all would like to see. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of the USA.

Are you agreed with the proposal made by the USA?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) I only wanted to bring to the attention of the Committee that the declaration that was adopted at the commemorative part of this session, this was the fact, it was already adopted, it was fully approved without any additional comments, and so on and so on. Moreover, in the first paragraph of the text of this declaration is edited on behalf of the States participating in the commemorative segment. In case that it should be a special resolution of the General Assembly it would be necessary to add another introductory paragraph in order to accommodate the approval by the General Assembly. I believe it would be better if we, in the text of the omnibus resolution, insert a paragraph in which the endorsement of the General Assembly of the declaration adopted by the commemorative segment would be included and then the full text of this declaration without any need for change attached as an annex.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

It is what the USA proposed, to have the declaration as an annex. The declaration is already adopted, we do not negotiate any more or change anything in the annex. We just reflect the fact that it was adopted during our session of the Committee and could annex it to the omnibus resolution of the General Assembly.

Is this agreeable to all delegations? I see no objections.

The decision is taken that the declaration will be an annex to the omnibus resolution of the General Assembly and one paragraph reflects the fact that it was adopted during the Committee and what the distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic proposed. We will formulate the proposals.

Thank you very much.

Now we proceed with the technical presentations. Presenters are kindly reminded that technical presentations should be limited to 15 minutes in length. The first presentation is by Mr. Hegde of India entitled 'RESOURCESAT-2: Continuing global services in Earth observation'.

[Technical presentation]

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished presenter Dr. Hegde from India for his presentation.

Are there questions to the presenter? I see none.

The second presentation is by Mr. Claudio Maccone of the International Academy of Astronautics entitled 'IAA 50 Years Anniversary and Heads of Space Agencies Summit'.

[Technical presentation]

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Professor Maccone for your presentation.

Now the last presentation of this morning's session is by Mr. Nicholas Johnson also from the International Academy of Astronautics entitled 'Sustainable use of space through orbital debris control'.

[Technical presentation]

The CHAIRMAN I thank you Mr. Johnson for your presentation.

Is there any delegate who has questions for the presenter? I see none.

Distinguished delegates I would now like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon. We will reconvene promptly at 3 p.m. At that time we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 15, other matters. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 15, report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Following the plenary there will be three technical presentations. The first by a representative of Chile, the second by a representative of India and the third by a representative of the Russian Federation.

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

This meeting is adjourned until 3 p.m.

The meeting closed at 12.58 p.m