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

Script

839th Meeting
Monday, 19 March 2012, 10.00 a.m.
Vienna

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

The meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I am pleased to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and now declare open the fifty-first session and 839th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all aware, the Subcommittee will shortly elect its Chair for a two-year term in accordance with the agreement reached at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee.

With the Subcommittee's permission, I will continue to preside over this meeting until the new Chair has been duly elected at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

However, before commencing with the election of the Chair, the Subcommittee should adopt its agenda for this session. We shall now proceed with the adoption of the agenda.

Distinguished delegates, we have before us to approve and adopt the provisional agenda for this session, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.285. The provisional agenda has been approved and been prepared on the basis on the agreement reached at the 2011 session of the Committee and was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/71 of 9 December 2011. Please note that the annotations are not part of the agenda and that there is an indicative schedule of work in the annex of that document.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the agenda is adopted?

It is so decided.

Election of officers

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to the election of the Chair. I wish to inform delegates that in paragraph 26 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies at their respective session in 2012 should elect the officers nominated for the period 2012 and 2013.

I would also recall for delegations that the Committee at its fifty-fourth session in 2011 agreed that Mr. Tare Brisibe of Nigeria should be elected to the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee.

Therefore, on this, if there are any objections, may I take it that the Subcommittee would wish to elect Mr. Tare Brisibe as its Chair for a two-year term beginning with this session?

I see no objection.

It is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, before calling on the elected Chair to take his seat on the podium, allow me to make some short remarks.

Over the last two years, I had the privilege to serve this Subcommittee as your Chairman to work with you, distinguished delegates, and it was very rewarding. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Soltanieh, for all his support to me during my presidency.

Progress in all common work would not have been possible without the excellent support and guidance of the Secretariat during the session of the Subcommittee. I would, therefore, like to express my deep appreciation to the Director of the Office, Dr. Mazlan Othman, and the Secretary, Mr. Niklas Hedman, and the Inter-Secretariat team. Thank you.

I warmly congratulate you, Mr. Tare Brisibe, on your election and would now invite him to assume the Chair.

Statement by the Chair

Mr. T. C. BRISIBE (*Nigeria*) (Chairman)
Distinguished delegates, I would like to thank all member States of the Committee for electing me for the post of Chair of the Subcommittee for the period 2012 to 2013 and for the confidence that you have placed in me in furthering the work of the Legal Subcommittee. I would like to assure you of my commitment to the work of the Subcommittee. I am honoured to assume this important function which was successfully fulfilled by my predecessor, Mr. Ahmed Talebzadeh, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.

Attendance

Turning to the issue of participation of non-members in this session, distinguished delegates, I would like to inform the Subcommittee that I have received communications from the following member States of the United Nations: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Israel, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and from the following organizations: the European Union, the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, as well as the Permanent Court of Arbitration — all requesting to participate in the meetings of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee as observers.

I would, therefore, suggest that in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations to attend the current session and to address the Subcommittee as appropriate. This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and clearly does not involve any decision of the full Committee concerning status as it is a courtesy we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

It is so decided.

I would like to recall for your information the applications for membership in the Committee received from the following member States of the United Nations: Costa Rica, in Conference Room Paper 5, and Jordan, in Conference Room Paper 4, as well as the applications for permanent observer status with the Committee received from the following international non-governmental organizations, namely, the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics, under the

acronym, SCOSTEP, in Conference Room Paper 6, and the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, in Conference Room Paper 7.

The Committee at its fifty-fifth session in June will consider these applications.

Programme of work

With respect to our programme of work, distinguished delegates, last year we witnessed several remarkable events. We celebrated the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee and, at the level of the Committee, we also celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight, including the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Later in the year, the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/71 adopted that Fiftieth Anniversary Declaration.

The General Assembly also in 2011 adopted resolution 65/271 of 7 April 2011. That resolution declared the 12 of April “International Day of Human Space Flight” in commemorating the first human space flight when Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth, thereby opening a new chapter of human endeavour in outer space.

Distinguished delegates, in the fiftieth anniversary declaration, annexed to resolution 66/71, the Assembly recalls the first meeting of the permanent Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was convened on 27 November 1961 and which facilitated the adopted of General Assembly resolutions 1721A-E(16), especially by resolution 1721A, the following principles recommended to States for their guidance in space activities, namely that international law, including the Charter of the United Nations applies to outer space and celestial bodies and that outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law and are not subject to national appropriation.

In the same resolution, 1721B, the Assembly, amongst other things, expressed its belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and stipulated further the first mandate for the registration of objects launched into outer space. Fifty years after its adoption, this resolution is highly relevant in the area of registration because it provides the grounds for registration of space objects by States not Parties to the Registration Convention.

In the Fiftieth Anniversary Declaration, the Assembly also acknowledges that significant changes have occurred in the structure and content of the space endeavour as is reflected in the emergence of new technologies and the increasing number of actors at all levels and, therefore, notes with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by enhancing the capacity of States for economic, social and cultural developments, and also by strengthening the regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect.

In the said Declaration, the Assembly also recalls the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty which establishes the fundamental principles of international space law and reaffirms the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and of the widest possible adherence to the international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space.

Among numerous truly impressive achievements, the Committee, as well as the Legal Subcommittee, have been instrumental in the development of the international legal regime governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, consisting of five treaties and five sets of declarations and principles on outer space activities. The Outer Space Treaty, together with the other co-treaties on outer space, form the legal foundation for today's space activities. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I witness the efforts of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee to further advance the applications of the legal regime of outer space and to promote capacity-building in space law.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to draw your attention to the work we have before us at this session, in respect of which we will reconvene three Working Groups, namely the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, and the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

As you will note from the annotations to the agenda, which was just adopted in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.285, there are several documents prepared for this session, both for your consideration in the respective Working Groups and under other agenda items and you have a number of those documents provided in the package before you. You will, in addition, receive a number of Conference Room Papers during the course of this session.

In this context, I would like to note in particular that the Work Plan of the Working Group on National Space Legislation has been extended for this session with the view of the Working Group to finalize its report. Delegations will have before them a Working Paper by the Chair of that Working Group containing a revised draft set of conclusions, as is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.286, as well as the draft overall report of the Working Group in Conference Room Paper 9. Delegations will also have before them Conference Room Paper 8 concerning the updated table with a schematic overview of national space legislation.

In observance of agenda item 6 on Information on the Activities of International, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations relating to Space Law, I would like to note that the International Law Association, the ILA, was invited by the Subcommittee in 2011 to inform the Subcommittee at this session on the work of the Advisory Group on Dispute Settlement Relating to Activities in Outer Space, conducted under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The report of the ILA is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/100 and the Optional Rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which were adopted by the Court's Administrative Council on 6 of December 2011 are also contained in Conference Room Paper 17 for the benefit of delegations.

I would also like to mention to you that His Excellency Fausto Pocar, a judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and who served as the Chair of the Advisory Group established under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, will attend this current session of this Subcommittee during the second week to provide additional information on the adopted instrument.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed by reconvening our Working Groups at this session in order to allow for the Chairs of the respective Working Groups to begin their work.

The following Working Groups should be reconvened under their respective Chairs, namely, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jean-François Mayence of Belgium; the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil; and the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Madam Irmgard Marboe of Austria.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the Subcommittee wishes to reconvene these Working Groups under their respective Chairs?

It is so decided.

I would like to wish Mr. Jean-François Mayence, Mr. José Monserrat Filho and Madam Irmgard Marboe good luck in their endeavours at this session.

Organizational matters

Moving on to the issue of organizational matters, distinguished delegates, as in the past the indicative schedule of work annexed to the agenda which was adopted by the Subcommittee earlier this morning will be followed in a flexible manner as much as possible and can be adjusted as we proceed with our work.

General Assembly resolution 32/71 requires that member States of each United Nations body be informed at the beginning of each session of the resources available to it.

I would like to inform you of the arrangements made for this session of the Legal Subcommittee.

With respect to assigned conference and meeting rooms, we have Conference Room M-I, M-VII, M0E-100, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 27 and Room E0953.

With respect to simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and sound recording will be provided for the plenary meetings in the original language and in English.

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

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meetings hours, namely from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.00 to 6.00 p.m. on working days; and

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

In addition to the above, financial and capacity constraints in Conference Services coincide with a trend of increasing demand for both meeting and documentation services. The existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload and there is consequently a need to adhere most strictly to guidelines on providing interpretation, meeting and documentation services. In particular, ad hoc meetings, informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours or on non-working days will not be serviced.

The Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficiency measures, such as increased outsourcing, fully electronic document processing, reduced overtime and nightshifts as well as intensive, editorial reports drafting assistance. Therefore, close coordination and cooperation between delegations re. substantive Secretariat and Conference Services is even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Services will do their best to deliver to us as they have done in the past. With timely submission of in-session documentation, they will deliver as much documentation in all six official languages as possible. However, due to the constraints already mentioned, some documentation may only be available for the afternoon closing session, unedited or in English only, depending on how late it was submitted for processing.

On your behalf, I would like to assure the Secretariat that they can count on the usual good cooperation and understanding of delegations in keeping submission deadlines.

I trust that with that, we will bring this session to a successful closing.

I would also like to remind delegates of the General Assembly's request to cut down on the length of reports issued by the Secretariat, including the reports of intergovernmental bodies. Since the Secretariat continues to be pressured to further reduce the length of our reports, measures will be taken in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary-General towards achieving this. I give you assurances that this will be done without affecting quality or content of the report and, therefore, request your understanding and support in this matter.

Delegates are requested to please turn mobile telephones off when entering any conference room. Mobile phones switched on, as well as those on standby, seriously interfere with the sound system in conference rooms and, hence, the quality of interpretation and sound recording. So I strongly urge you to please adhere to this request. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its fifty-fourth session in 2011, delegations are to be provided on the first day of each session with a draft list of the scheduling of technical presentations. This is also stated under Section 13 of the annotated agenda in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.285.

In view of the fact that only four presentations have been requested for at this moment, the Secretariat will not provide such a list. I will instead give you the information as follows.

Tomorrow morning, Tuesday, 20 March, the European Centre for Space Law will make a presentation on its activities. On Wednesday morning, 21 March, Germany will make a presentation related to space debris mitigation. On Tuesday morning, 27 March, Japan will make a presentation related to capacity-building in space law, and for the moment, on the list I have before me, on Tuesday afternoon, 27 March, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will demonstrate its online travel preparatory webpage.

I would urge delegations to provide the Secretariat with any additional requests for technical presentations by tomorrow, Tuesday, 21 March, at close of business.

I also remind delegations that speaking notes for technical presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to outline a tentative schedule for the next meetings this morning.

We shall shortly proceed with the general exchange of views. This afternoon, starting at 3.00 p.m., we will have a Symposium on the theme "Transfer of Ownership of Space Objects: On Issues of Responsibility, Liability and Registration", which will be held in this Conference Room.

At 6.00 p.m. following the Symposium, there will be a reception hosted by the organizers of this Symposium, namely the International Institute of Space Law, IISL, and the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL. This will take place in the Mozart Room, here at the Vienna International Centre Restaurant.

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

I see none. So we will proceed accordingly.

General exchange of views (agenda item 4)

On the general exchange of views, agenda item 4, distinguished delegates, I would now suggest that we begin consideration of item 4 on our agenda, General Exchange of Views, in order to enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all items of the provisional agenda in a timely and balanced manner. The item entitled "General Exchange of Views" has been scheduled over a longer period of time during this session. The number of statements to be made under the general exchange of views at each meeting may be limited as necessary in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting.

As a general guideline, statements in the general exchange of views should be no more than 10 minutes in length.

May I now call on delegations I have on the list before me and the first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of GRULAC.

Mr. D. STACEY (*GRULAC*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, GRULAC, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of the Subcommittee. We are convinced that under your leadership, this session of the Subcommittee will be successful.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC is convinced that the peaceful use of outer space and its benefits could bring great benefits to human development. We reiterate our support and respect for the principles and the agreements that must govern the relationship among States in the exploration and use of outer space, namely universal access to outer space on the basis of equality in favour of all States without any type of discrimination, whatever their level of scientific and technical and economic development, as well as the equitable and rational use of outer space.

The principle of the non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which cannot be the object of appropriation by any State or any type of sovereignty claims, use, occupation, in whatever form.

The commitment of States to the strictly peaceful use of outer space and regional cooperation in the development of space activities.

Mr. Chairman, we are faced with the rapid rise in space activities and increasing use of outer space by

countries, international organizations and private entities which could, in principle, have a negative impact on the maintenance of outer space in the way that we know it today. Some of these issues have already been tackled by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS. GRULAC believes it is indispensable that this Legal Subcommittee should increase its interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with a view to promoting the development of binding international norms that create an adequate legal framework for such types of activities as the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, space debris mitigation, among others, bearing in mind that one of the main responsibilities of the United Nations in the legal sphere is to promote the progressive development of international law and its regulation, and in this case, with regard to the environment and outer space.

Furthermore, with a view to establishing multilateral norms that reflect new scientific breakthroughs and technological discoveries, GRULAC believes it is necessary to revise, update and modify the five United Nations treaties on outer space, with a view to strengthening the guiding principles that govern all space activities of States, particularly with an emphasis on the peaceful uses, strengthen international cooperation and make space technology accessible to all nations. This revision should not be understood in any way as something that would impinge the fundamental principles which form the basis of the international legal regime that currently exists.

With regard to the use of nuclear power sources, with specific reference to the nuclear power sources used in outer space, GRULAC, with great respect for international norms, believes that regulatory activities associated with the use of nuclear power sources in space, remain an exclusive duty of States which must ensure compliance with the applicable international norms and guiding principles, whatever the level of social, economic, scientific and technical development of countries. This is something that is applicable to all humanity.

We reiterate the international responsibility of States in terms of the national space activities involving the use of nuclear power sources in space, be they pursued by government entities or non-governmental bodies. It is important that they should be carried out for the benefit of the people, not damaging the interests of the people.

On that basis, on the basis of the Safety Framework on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in

Outer Space, approved by COPUOS in its fifty-second session, GRULAC urges the Subcommittee to carry out a revision of those principles and promote binding norms with a view to making sure that any activity in outer space be governed by the principles of the conservation of life and peace.

In particular, it is necessary to give greater attention to legal issues associated with satellite platforms carrying nuclear power sources in the Earth's orbit in the light of reported failures, breakdown and the possibility of collisions posing a danger to humanity.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of the equitable use of the geostationary orbit, GRULAC reiterates its position that this natural resource is limited and is in danger of being saturated. Therefore, we believe that its use must be made more rational and accessible to all States, giving them a possibility to access the geostationary orbit on the basis of equity and equality, taking into account in particular the needs and interests of developing countries, countries with a specific geographic situation, in compliance with the principles established by the ITU and the various norms and decisions promoted by the United Nations.

In that regard, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of this medium, GRULAC believes it is necessary to continue maintaining this issue on its agenda, the agenda of this Subcommittee, and elaborate it further through the creation of appropriate working groups and intergovernmental panels as necessary.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC firmly believes that regional and interregional cooperation is one of the fundamental pillars in ensuring the benefits of outer space. It will make it possible to exchange knowledge and good practices and to promote capacity-building at the national and regional levels.

It is especially important in developing space law for our countries, developing countries. Therefore, we reiterate the need for the Secretariat to continue exploring new agreements for cooperation among national, public and private educational establishments, as well as interregional organizations to promote training programmes in the area of space law.

GRULAC believes that a special legal regime governing space activities should ensure that the benefits of research and exploration improve the living quality of human beings, guaranteeing conditions of equality, prosperity and wellbeing for the current and future generations. In this context, GRULAC believes

that there is a need for a single legal regime that would regulate the navigation of all space objects. Therefore, we think it is appropriate to point out that there is a serious legal gap, a serious legal lacunae in terms of the definition and delimitation of outer space.

In this regard, GRULAC believes that the issue has not been adequately addressed and progress has not been sufficient. This generates legal insecurity that affects the attempts to draw a line between the duties and obligations of various States. Therefore, the Group encourages the Legal Subcommittee to proceed to explore the issue in question related to the definition and delimitation of outer space where we need to have the necessary will for our common efforts.

With regard to national mechanisms for space debris mitigation, GRULAC believes it is important that States should implement space debris guidelines, taking into account the fact that the future of space activities, in large measure, depends on their reduction, the reduction of space debris. In this regard, GRULAC invites the Subcommittee to deepen its work in this area, in particular give more attention to space debris coming from platforms with nuclear power sources in outer space, possible collisions between space objects and space debris, and related aspects, as well as to improving the technologies existing for monitoring this situation. GRULAC encourages States to communicate to the Subcommittee and disseminate information on their reactions to reduce the generation of space debris, particularly this goes to those States that are largely responsible for the current situation and have the capability to adopt the necessary measures to mitigate space debris and their impact, all of this in compliance with resolution 68/927 of the United Nations General Assembly. In this regard, GRULAC recommends that we carry out legal analysis of the existing Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

We should also like to emphasize that cooperation is an effective tool, recognized by the General Assembly, to address the issue of space debris, from the perspective of those countries that can be affected, taking into account resolution 66/71 which reaffirms the importance of international cooperation to promote the rule of law and underlines the importance of developing this work in a special legal framework that would strengthen cooperation.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, it seems important to us to bear in mind that the matter of space debris should not be tackled in any way that would limit or infringe upon space activities of the least developed countries.

Mr. Chairman, finally, on behalf of GRULAC, I would like to reiterate the fact that we are willing and ready to contribute to a productive debate and make sure that this session be successful.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of Ecuador for his statement on behalf of GRULAC.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Kenya on behalf of the African Group. Sir, you have the floor.

Mr. U. K. YATANI (*Kenya*) Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the African Group, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2012-2013 and assure you of our full support.

I wish also to express our appreciation to Mr. Ahmed Talebzadeh, the outgoing Chair for his able leadership, as well as the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman, and her staff for their dedication.

Mr. Chairman, the African Group stresses the importance of the international legal framework that allows equal exploration of outer space based on the principles of non-appropriation and peaceful uses of outer space in conformity with the five United Nations treaties governing space activities, in particular the 1967 Treaty on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and the Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

The African Group encourages the Legal Subcommittee to continue set forth to develop this legal framework where required, including to soft law, taking into account technological development, the expansion of space activities and the emergence of new space actors, provided that the above-mentioned principles governing the exploration and use of outer space are not undermined.

In this context, the African Group welcomes the efforts of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Jean-François Mayence of Belgium, and we wish to express the support for the extension of the mandate of the Working Group for an additional year, if needed, and to ensure a wider participation in the work of the Group.

Mindful of the importance of developing capacity-building in the field of space law, the African Group stresses the importance of the dissemination of knowledge through bilateral channels as well as through bilateral cooperation, with an increased role for the Office for Outer Space Affairs aimed at assisting African countries in the effort for developing national legislation for space activities.

In this context, the African Group welcomes the outcome of the Fourth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, held in Mombasa, Kenya, in September 2011, in particular the call for the accession of the African countries to the existing United Nations treaties, the development of national policies and a regulatory framework, fostering closer cooperation and dialogue between universities and institutions will establish space law programmes, in particular for the benefits of students and professionals in the public and private sector and promoting overall capacity-building in space law in Africa, for which regional coordination and cooperation could play an important role.

In this regard, the African Group noted with appreciation, the core organization by the Government of Kenya and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of a session on Space Law on the Emergence of the Fourth LC.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate the position of the Group on issues, some of which are on the agendas of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee.

Regarding the geostationary orbit, the African Group considers that it is a limited resource at risk of becoming saturated. Its use should be streamlined, giving priority to activities with long-term perspectives, contributing towards the attainments of the Millennium Development Goals, while taking into account the conditions of equality of all countries, irrespective of their current space capacities.

The African Group stresses the importance of the definition and the delimitation of outer space in order to prevent and reduce possible disputes among States related to space activities. The definition and delimitation should be considered in an intergovernmental framework, in particular with the Legal Subcommittee of the COPUOS, taking into consideration the scientific and technological progress.

In this context, the African Group welcomes the efforts of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, under the chairmanship of

Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil, and expresses readiness to participate in the discussions on the proposal for the definition and delimitation.

The proliferation of space debris is a matter of concern for the African Group due to its consequences on the future of exploration and use of outer space. Therefore, the mitigation of space debris and the limitation of the creation should be among the priorities of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

It is against this background that challenges related to space activities, in particular space debris, should be addressed in such a way that it will not jeopardize the development of space capabilities of developing countries. In this regard, the Group encourages all States to consider voluntary implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

Special attention should be paid to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The potential risk of collisions and accidental re-entry in the atmosphere of space objects using nuclear power sources and their consequences should be addressed accordingly. In order to ensure a safe use of nuclear power sources, the African Group considers it important that the space actors with proven capabilities in this field should make available the information and know-how on measures taken to ensure safety of the space objects using nuclear power sources.

Regarding the organizational matters, the African Group considers important the need to streamline and improve the work of the Subcommittee by giving priority to the substantive issues aimed at strengthening the international legal framework.

In addition, the African Group is of the view that the deliberations of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies remain available to the public opinion, while taking into account the necessary serenity that should preside over the proceedings.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of Kenya for his statement on behalf of the African Group.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Japan.

Mr. T. OSAWA (Japan) Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. On behalf of

the Japanese Government, I am very pleased to address the fifty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Chairman, Mr. Tare Brisibe, and to express our gratitude to the former Chairman, Mr. Ahmed Talebzadeh, as well as to Dr. Mazlan Othman and her capable staff for their untiring efforts to prepare this session.

Mr. Chairman, before we continue, we would like to express our sincere condolences to the victims of natural disasters around the world over the past year. One year has passed since the great East Japan earthquake and through the course of this year, we saw how much international assistance means to people in need.

On behalf of the people of Japan, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable support provided to us.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer now to Japanese national legislation. The Basic Space Law, which was enacted in May 2008, provides that Japan's space activities shall be carried out in order to ensure the peaceful use of outer space, improve citizens' lives, ensure national security, promote industry, aid in the progression of human society and continue to foster international relationships and cooperation.

Establishing a strategic promoting system for the development and utilization of outer space has been a long-standing subject in Japan's Space Policy. In order to further strengthen the headquarter function for space policy in Japan, the Cabinet decided on the reorganization of the governmental structure for the strategic promotion of the development and utilization of outer space. Under this reorganization, the Cabinet Office will also play a role in implementing the development, deployment and operation of a Quasi-Zenith Satellite System, QZSS.

The Cabinet also decided to expand and upgrade the QZSS into an operational and regional satellite-based Global Navigation Satellite System, GNSS, which contributes to the welfare of the Asia-Pacific region.

The Cabinet Office shall develop, deploy and operate the operational QZSS in coordination with relevant ministries, industries, agencies and industries to promote this subject of each stage of development, deployment, operation, utilization and global dissemination.

Legal amendments will be made in order for the Cabinet Office to fulfil such a role.

Mr. Chairman, as the semi-centennial session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee opens, Japan would like to reiterate that in light of the ever-increasing scale of space activities, treaties are all the more indispensable in providing the necessary legal order and framework in which they are conducted.

We would, therefore, like to emphasize the need to use various forums including the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS to call upon countries that are not yet party to these space-related treaties, to ratify them as soon as possible.

Japan will support COPUOS' initiative to this end.

Japan also suggests that the adoption of a non-binding soft law is a realistic solution that would further encourage countries to comply and we will continue to support such rule-making processes through this Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to share our most recent space activities and achievements.

First, in the field of human space exploration, astronaut Satoshi Furukawa successfully completed his 165-day stay on the ISS in November 2011. Astronaut Akihiko Hoshide was stayed his long-duration stay on the ISS this year. Astronaut Koichi Wakata will be the Commander of the ISS for the thirty-ninth expedition next year, the first Asian astronaut to assume this important duty.

In addition to this, Japan has been playing an important role by conducting transporter missions to and from the ISS. Using the H-II Transfer Vehicle and HTV Launch Vehicle, last year when the second H-II Transfer Vehicle, HTV-2 was launched. JAXA undertook new measures for the controlled re-entry of the second stage of the HTV Launch Vehicle in order to dispose of it safely.

This year, HTV-3 is on schedule for mission.

Secondly, to learn about the original evolution of the solar system from Near-Earth Object, NEO, the Asteroid Explorer has recently returned the materials from the Asteroid Itokawa to Earth in 2010. The latest analysis based on space weathering proved that these materials originated from Itokawa. JAXA experts are currently reviewing the proposals submitted by

institutes and organizations all over the world and the researchers who are interested in conducting further analysis of the materials collected from Itokawa.

Moreover, JAXA is now preparing the next mission of HAYBUSA-2 and hopes to launch in 2014 with the estimated arrival of the Target Earth Asteroid scheduled for 2018.

The results of these Japanese space activities will add new insight to the discussion on NEO.

Third, as part of the Global Change Observation Mission, the satellite Shizuku, which means water drop in Japanese, will be launched this year by the HII-A Launch Vehicle in order to conduct the Global Observation Water Circulation.

We are very pleased to mention that the overall success rate for the HII-A Launch Vehicle has increased to 95.0 as a result of its 19 successful launches.

Japan has responded quickly to register space objects launched into orbit in accordance with the latest format provided by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and has faithfully provided a status to the Secretary-General of the United Nations according to the Registration Convention and resolution 17/21B of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, one of the mandates bestowed upon the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee is to generate discussions on the legal aspects of space programmes in order to ensure that all activities are carried out in a free and fair manner. As one of the leading countries in outer space activities, Japan will continue to value the activities of this Subcommittee and work closely with other members of team in order for the Subcommittee to efficiently and effectively achieve its worthwhile goals.

Finally, our delegation is pleased that, as endorsed by the General Assembly, COPUOS has agreed to elect Dr. Yasushi Horikawa as Chairman of the COPUOS at its June session. We look forward to working with Dr. Horikawa, all member States and with the Secretariat to ensure the continued success of COPUOS.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of Japan for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished of Germany. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. R. LASSIG (*Germany*) Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. On behalf of the German delegation, I would like to congratulate you, Dr. Tare Brisibe, on your election as Chairman of this COPUOS Subcommittee. We note with great appreciation that with your presidency, a representative of the African Group has taken on this important role and task.

We are also pleased to mention that you, Dr. Brisibe, have an excellent and well-established relation with the Cologne Institute of Air and Space Law.

Concurrently, the German delegation would like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Ahmed Talebzadeh, for his efforts and the important contribution he has made to take the Subcommittee's work forward.

My delegation also expresses its highest gratitude to Dr. Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and to her team for the preparation of this year's meeting. The German Government recognizes the importance of this year's agenda. You have done a tremendous job.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Germany remains fully committed to cooperating with other space-faring nations to promote the peaceful use of outer space.

I would like to highlight some of our efforts in this area.

First, out of 1.2 billion Euros available in our national budget for space activities, 724 million Euros have been allocated to ESA for the programmes Germany has signed. Two EU flagship programmes, Galileo and GMES, are of special importance to us as they are designed to support major United Nations programmes.

On 21 October 2011, two Galileo satellites were successfully launched from the European space port, Kourou, in French Guyana. We would like to thank our European partners for their close cooperation on this occasion.

Second, another outstanding example of international cooperation continues to be the ISS, the logistics of which are tackled with the ATV-2 Johannes

Kepler, an Automated Transfer Vehicle, which was mainly built in German.

With nearly 25 science flights in 2011, the Flying Observatory, SOFIA, has started its operational phase. SOFIA is a cooperation between the United States of America and Germany. The United States of America converted a Boeing 747 into a flying observatory by integrating a German-built telescope. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our American partners.

Third, in November 2011, we commemorated 40 years of Brazilian-German cooperation which has resulted in outstanding bilateral projects in basic as well as in applied research in outer space. We would like to thank our Brazilian partners for this long-standing and productive cooperation.

Fourth, 1 November 2011, represents a special date for Germany as a partner of the People's Republic of China in aeronautic research. We would like to congratulate China on the successful launch of Shenzhou-8 and we welcome that the German Zim Box Experimental Facility containing 17 biomedical experiments in on board. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Chinese partners.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, regarding the agenda item "Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space", my delegation welcomes the initiative taken by the Chair of the respective Working Group. I wish to state it very clearly, my country supports the broad application and adherence to the United Nations space treaties.

I think we ought to point that spatial provisions with respect to resource management questions complementing the Outer Space Treaty seem to have become over time more and more relevant. One way to resolve potential conflicts of interests is offered by the Agreement Governing the Activities on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Germany will not stand in the way of a broader consensus, once we feel that a relevant number of countries move forward.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, space debris remains a topic of high importance for all of us as events in 2011 have demonstrated. We were fortunate that all uncontrolled re-entries ended well. Nevertheless, my delegation holds the view that we have to increase our cooperation in order to deal with this problem and its legal aspects.

Germany regrets that last year's initiative by the Czech Republic to give the Space Debris

Mitigation Guidelines a higher legal status by transforming them into a United Nations General Assembly resolution did not find sufficient support and we would be ready to see this proposal reflected in the discussion again.

Regarding liability resulting from any damage caused by space debris, Germany is of the opinion that the resolution and principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and its subordinate bodies, including the United Nations COPUOS Guidelines relating to the mitigation of space debris, should be given adequate relevance in the definition of the notion of thought, as contained in the 1972 Liability Convention.

In this context, I am pleased to announce that Carsten Wiedemann, a leading scientist from the University of Braunschweig, will make a presentation on Wednesday, 21 March, during the morning session.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the registration of space objects is one of the key elements of the United Nations space treaties and a prerequisite for jurisdiction and control. Therefore, Germany took an active part in the adoption of the Registration Practice resolution. Germany is convinced that the registration principles, as enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty and the Registration Convention, meet the requirements of the current space business with a number of private actors, if applied adequately.

Regarding the registration of space objects, Germany would like to clarify that neither the Outer Space Treaty nor the Registration Convention permit the transfer of the registration of a space object from launching State to a non-launching State during its operation in orbit. The responsibility for space objects rests with the launching State and cannot be abandoned.

A non-launching State whose operator takes over the space object, takes on an additional responsibility in its own right. However, internal arrangements between the launching State and the State of the current operator, are neither excluded nor predetermined by this regime of international law.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the next two weeks we will discuss the question of national legislation on space activities. On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate Austria for passing a National Space Act. Along with this, we appreciate the endeavours of the International Law Association to create a modern National Space Law which will be introduced later this year.

Germany's National Space Strategy stipulates explicitly the need of a National Space Act which is still in the process of being worked out.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, for many years, the Legal Subcommittee has been following the development of UNIDROIT's new legal instrument for the financing of space assets.

On 9 March 2012, following a two-week Diplomatic Conference, hosted by the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, a major achievement was reached in the development of commercial space law. The adoption and opening for signature of the Protocol on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets, ensured Berlin's Space Protocol. The Berlin Protocol significantly increases the benefits of the highly successful Cape Town regime by facilitating the financing of high-value space assets, be it satellites or, in future, space vehicles.

Most significantly, the Berlin Protocol is the first Space Law Treaty to be adopted in over three decades and the first international private law agreement in the field of commercial space fare.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Germany underscores the importance of promoting space law. I would like to conclude my statement by briefly enumerating four points.

Firstly, regarding the Office for Outer Space Affairs Space Law Database, the German Government is pleased to present to this Legal Subcommittee the English version of Germany's newest Space Strategy.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to the well-known 2011 Annual Report of the Cologne University Institute of Air and Space Law, which will, as in the past, be distributed during this Subcommittee.

Thirdly, I would like to inform you that Volume 2 of the Cologne Commentary on Space Law will be published in the second half of this year.

And last, but not least, I would like to report that from 30 January until 10 February 2012, Professor Hobe, and who is with us here this week, went for the second time an all-African Course on International Law Air and Space Law. The Course took place at the University of Pretoria in South Africa and will be followed by a Masters Course as early as next year.

On this note, I would like to conclude my remarks. Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of Germany for your statement and kind words directed at myself.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation and I will give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Russia.

Mr. D. GONCHAR (*Russian Federation interpretation from Russian*) Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Russian delegation, let me extend my sincere congratulations on your election to this important position. We are sure that under your leadership, this Subcommittee will be in a position to make a positive contribution to developing the international legal regime for the peaceful use of outer space.

I would also like to extend greetings on the part of the Russian delegation to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. We wish her further success in her difficult work.

And on my own personal behalf, I would like to say that I am really happy to be back as a member of the space community of the United Nations after a five years interval.

Colleagues, the Russian Federation attaches great importance to developing international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space. It is no secret to anyone that international cooperation in this area and interest in it around the world is constantly increasing. For years, countries have jointly worked on a legal basis with the involvement of the United Nations and for a long time it functioned quite effectively, ensuring the progressive development of space activities, enhancing the cooperation of States in outer space.

However, life moves on and at present we witness a broadening of the membership of the space club. New countries are becoming involved in large-scale space programmes, including putting space objects in orbit. New forms and methods of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space are arising among States and among other actors in space activities.

In all the areas related to outer space, we are observing a genuine technological revolution. New technologies make it possible to create space-based systems and machines that radically alter the traditional forms and ways of pursuing outer space activities, and

this, of course, further expands the list of actors in the outer space arena.

In that regard, increasingly significant is the work pursued by non-State entities and private companies. We see increasing commercialization of outer space activities. Space industry is becoming a major branch of the world's economy. All of this raises the significance and role of international cooperation in outer space and objectively such cooperation is not possible without an accelerated development of a legal basis that ensures the effectiveness and orderly methods underlying such cooperation.

Further balanced development of international outer space law is an objective requirement of our time. Only such development can make it possible to raise the efficiency of the use of space activities for the benefit of all States will promote sustainable, social and economic development and the maintenance of peace and security around the world.

We believe that the process of improving the key provisions of outer space law must be comprehensive and step wise.

Once again, we would like to note that it can be accomplished on the basis of Russia's initiative to develop a single comprehensive United Nations convention on outer space law. In working on such an instrument, we could find acceptable solutions to issues that are constantly in the focus of the Subcommittee's attention, such as ensuring the universality of outer space treaties, the definition and delimitation of outer space, space debris mitigation, and a host of other issues.

Mr. Chairman, this delegation cannot but be concerned in view of the attempts to militarize outer space activities, to use outer space for purposes that are incompatible with the key provisions of United Nations treaties and the fundamental principles governing space activities. Deploying weapons in outer space will inevitably have a negative impact on the regime underlying the peaceful uses of outer space and the entire system of international security. In that context, we would like to re-emphasize the importance of the joint initiative put forward by Russia and China to draft a treaty on preventing the deployment of weaponry in outer space. The objective here is to take preventive measures against the emergency of new, highly technologically advanced destabilizing types of weapons and new areas of confrontation.

Mr. Chairman, all States have an equal and inalienable right to have access to outer space, to

explore it and use it. It is reasonable then that ensuring security in space is our common task that we all share. We have no doubt that the draft Treaty on the Non-Deployment of Weapons in Outer Space would be an effective and realistic way of reaching that objective.

In conclusion, let me provide assurances that the Russian delegation is prepared for an active and constructive dialogue over the entire array of issues pertaining to international cooperation in outer space. Our delegation reserves the right to take the floor again on various specific items on the Subcommittee's agenda as we get to them.

Thank you very much for your attention and I wish everyone a productive session.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of China. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. J. CHENG (*China interpretation from Chinese*) Mr. Chairman, the Chinese delegation congratulates you on your new chairmanship at the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. We are convinced that under your guidance this session will achieve full success.

At the same time, this delegation also expresses its thanks to Dr. Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for the efforts made to prepare for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, let me begin with a brief presentation of China's major space activities over the past year.

China made 18 successful space launches in 2011, sending 20 objects in outer space, including satellites, an unmanned spacecraft and a Targeted Spacecraft, namely Tiangong-1 and a Shenzhou-8, which successfully performed rendezvous and docking operations twice while orbiting in space.

Space technologies have been widely applied in China in such fields as meteorology, marine applications, disaster prevention and mitigation, environmental monitoring and navigation, thus making important contributions to the national economic development and the wellbeing of the population.

By the same token, China also attaches high importance to space science by actively carrying out

researches and making progress in space weather, space physics and other fields.

Mr. Chairman, China is ready to share the benefits of the peaceful exploration and use of outer space with other countries. Constantly adhering to the principle of equality, mutual benefits, the peaceful use and common development, China is dedicated to international cooperation and enabling all countries, particularly developing countries to benefit from the advances of space technology.

In 2011, when the Horn of Africa was suffering from acute drought and Pakistan was inundated by severe floods, China offered relevant data products and services of its satellites for environment and disaster monitoring and forecast to these countries in dire situations.

A groundstation for China's environment and disaster monitoring and forecast, a Small Satellite A, was constructed in Thailand and then handed over to the country in April 2011, which played its role in monitoring the subsequent flood in Thailand.

Apart from bilateral projects, China also has been conducting multilateral exchanges and cooperation in an active manner. In November 2011, the UNSPIDER Office in Beijing hosted the United Nations International Conference on Space-Based Technologies for Disaster Risk Management: Best Practices for Risk Reduction and Rapid Response Mapping.

As a response to the space weather initiative of COPUOS, China also hosted the Second International Conference on Storms, Sub-Storms and Space Weather, as well as the Fourth International Living With a Star Programme Science Workshop.

Mr. Chairman, China always upholds its belief in harmony in outer space and advocates its peaceful use. In December 2011, China issued its third Space White Paper reiterating its steadfast pursuit of the path of peaceful development and peaceful exploration, exploitation and use of outer space. Space is the province of all mankind. The China opposes resolutely weaponization of and an arms race in outer space and dedicates itself actively to the effort of maintaining peace and security in outer space.

China continues to believe that elaborating relevant international legal instruments through negotiation is still the best option to preserve long-lasting peace and security in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, China always abide by the legal regime of outer space based on the five space treaties, be it in exploring and using space on its own or in carrying out international cooperation. Naturally, we should set sight on the fact that a rapid development of space activities gives rise to new issues and challenges for the existing space law regime and it is necessary for the international community to further improve their space law regime and come up with a legal basis to resolve these issues and face up to these challenges.

In this respect, the Space Assets Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, adopted not long ago in Berlin, in our view, is a positive results achieved by the international community.

Over half a century, the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, as a platform for delegates of various countries to exchange views, has contributed tirelessly to the development of space law. This delegation expresses its admiration to the Subcommittee, along with other delegations who are ready to make our contribution to the success of this session as well as the improvement and progression of this space law.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of China for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Austria. You have the floor.

Mr. P. BITTNER (*Austria*) Mr. Chairman, let me first congratulate you on your chairmanship of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2012-2013. We are confident that our work during these sessions of the Subcommittee will greatly benefit from your skill and experience.

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

Mr. Chairman, Austria welcomes this year's Symposium on the theme "Transfer of Ownership of Space Objects: Issues of Responsibility, Liability and Registration", organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law.

It is a very timely subject which deserves an in-depth discussion. We believe that the Symposium will contribute substantially to our considerations in

the Subcommittee, in particular to agenda item 5 on “Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space”.

Mr. Chairman, last year we continued an intensive and fruitful discussion on the topic “National Space Legislation” and the Working Group under the chairmanship of Professor Irmgard Marboe made substantial progress. As the Working Group was prolonged for a further year, we will have its final meeting during the session of this Subcommittee.

We are looking forward to adopting a comprehensive report reflecting our work of the past years. Apart from the adoption of the report, we should also use this session of the Legal Subcommittee to discuss the next steps. In our view, the report of the Working Group should form the basis for conclusions of the Legal Subcommittee in respect of national space legislation or even for a resolution by the General Assembly.

Austria has a specific interest in this agenda item as it was working on its own national space law during the past years.

Finally, the Austrian Parliament adopted unanimously the Austrian Federal Law on the Authorization of Space Activities and the Establishment of a National Space Registry, in short, Austrian Outer Space Act, in May 2011, on the basis of a Government Bill which was subject to extensive public consultation. The Austrian Outer Space Act, published in the Austrian Federal Law Gazette, Volume 1, Number 132/2011, contains the following core elements.

It stipulates the need for an authorization of space activities by the Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology, and lays down the conditions for authorization. These conditions include the reliability, capability and expertise of the operator, no harmful contamination of the outer space or adverse changes in the environment, compliance with ITU requirements, an insurance covering a minimum amount of 60 million Euros which can be lowered for scientific or educational projects, and provision for the orderly termination of the space activity.

A further condition is the mitigation of space debris in accordance with the state-of-the-art and in due consideration of the internationally recognized guidelines. Given the importance of space debris mitigation, a separate section was dedicated to this condition.

The Austrian Outer Space Act also contains an explicit provision on transfer requiring authorization prior to a change of operator, and it establishes a registry and defines its contents.

Furthermore, it allows the Government to recuperate damages based due to international obligations from the operator up to the sum of the injured risk and if the damage is due to the fault of the operator, without limitation.

Finally, the Law contains provisions on supervision, revocation and modification of the authorization as well as sanctions for non-compliance up to 100,000 Euros.

Details, in particular with regard to the requirements for the authorization and the relevant documentation will be regulated in an ordinance which is currently elaborated.

At this point, I would like to highlight that the work and findings of this Subcommittee’s Working Group on National Space Legislation contributed substantially to the drafting of our own Law. It was particularly helpful to have a variety of national space laws easily at hand and to have the possibility to compare different solutions to a particular problem.

The background to these efforts to develop a National Space Law is a research project the Austrian and Canadian universities to investigate the brightness of massive luminous stars by differential photometry. In the framework of this project, the first Austrian satellite is scheduled to be launched in early summer 2012.

The satellite will be known as Bright Targeted Explorer and will be used to observe stars of high mass. Data on their vibrations may reveal new insights on the composition of these stars, as well as on the chemical evolution of the Universe.

For Austria, the research project and the construction of the Bright Targeted Explorer constitutes in a technical but also in a legal sense, a new era in space.

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

Last year, we had a very productive Working Group and set the framework for our work this year. We are looking forward to discussing issues relating to

the Moon Agreement, to liability and responsibility, as well as to registration of space objects in the case of transfer.

It will be of particular interest to bring these issues in relation to new developments in international law, such as, for instance, the progress in privatization of such activities.

With regard to the item “Capacity-Building in Space Law”, I would like to highlight Austria’s continued support for activities in the area of space law. In particular, capacity-building is crucial for developing countries as it enables them to derive benefits from space activities.

As to Austria, the National Point of Contact for Space Law is supported by the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology. It was founded in 2001 by Professor Brunner at the University of Graz and was transferred in 2009 to Professor Irmgard Marboe at the University of Vienna.

Space law forms part of the general course in international law, which is a compulsory subject at all Austrian law faculties. In addition, some faculties offer specialized courses on space law as an optional subject.

Furthermore, every year, Austrian students take part in the summer course in Space Law and Policy, organized by the European Centre for Space Law.

From 11 July to 9 September 2011, the Space Studies Programme of the International Space University took place in Graz. The Programme contained also an important focus on space law.

At this occasion, I would also like to recall last year’s Conference on Soft Law in Outer Space: the Function of Non-Binding Norms in International Space Law, which was organized by the Austrian National Point of Contact for Space Law, at the University of Vienna. Leading scholars and practitioners analysed the function of soft law, international law and international space law in particular, and focused on the influence of soft law on the actual conduct of space activities in practice.

The book related to the Conference and containing the contributions of the speakers has recently been published. The organizers of the Conference were so kind to provide each delegation with one copy of the book. The copies will soon be distributed.

Let me draw your attention to a further recent publication, namely the book “Outer Space in Society, Politics and Law”, edited by Professor Christian Brunner and Alexander Socek. This book is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to space law and explains modern space law in its technical, cultural and historical context. Following its publication, the book has already received international recognition and obtained the coveted Social Sciences Book Award of the International Academy of Astronautics for 2012. You may find leaflets on the book in the back of the room.

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

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished delegate of Austria for your statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (*Czech Republic*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic, I would like to make a statement on agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, but prior to it, let me extend our full satisfaction at seeing you for this two-year period in the Chair of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee. For the first time, a representative of an African country, who is renowned as a specialist in the field of international law, has been elected for chairing this body. We wish you full success in guiding its dealings during this session which starts the second half of the century of its fruitful activities.

At the same time, we would like to thank the former Chairman of the Subcommittee, the distinguished representative of Iran and Director-General of ABSCO, Mr. Ahmed Talebzadeh, for his very able guidance of this Subcommittee during the last period.

Our warm greetings are also addressed to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman, to the Secretary of the Subcommittee, Dr. Niklas Hedman, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs staff members who will assist the session and/or participated in its preparations.

Mr. Chairman, we are aware that the United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed in its resolution 66/71 of 9 December 2011, the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law including the relevant norms of space law and of the widest possible adherence to the international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space. This idea was also expressed in the Declaration that was unanimously adopted at the commemorative segment of the fiftieth anniversary session of the COPUOS.

For these reasons, the Czech Republic has for years supported the establishment and strengthening of the legal basis for space activities. Our delegation is also ready to cooperate with other delegations in widening the rule of law in and concerning outer space.

During the recent years, we have particularly watched the discussions developed in the three Working Groups of the Legal Subcommittee. Firstly, it has been the Working Group on the agenda item Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. We particularly appreciated the providing of a set of questions relating to the 1979 Moon Agreement which have been outlined in the document A/AC.105/C.2/L.272, jointly elaborated by seven States Parties to the Moon Agreement. The Chairman's Questionnaire also outline a number of other questions which deserve to continue as a thorough exchange of views and answers.

Secondly, the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space further developed its consideration of an old problem with due regard to the present conditions. The Plan of the Chairman to present to the Legal Subcommittee a proposal on possible ways of finding a solution to this issue should be welcomed and his efforts in this respect supported.

The Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space is about to harness the fruit of its discussions lasting several years. During the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group conducted a review of the draft report prepared by its Chairperson in consultation with the Secretariat.

The thematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities remains to be useful, particularly for those States which are enacting their national space legislation or intend to start such endeavours in the near future. The extension of the original mandate of the Working Group for another year also enables us to discuss the development of

recommendations to be derived from the multi-year efforts in this field and the framework thereof.

Mr. Chairman, I would still like to mention one issue that was also discussed at the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee. My country has been a long-time supporter of the consideration of the item "Space Debris" in the COPUOS and both its Subcommittees. Therefore, our delegation actively participated in the development of the COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. However, although the Guidelines became an important step in the struggle for the mitigation of space debris, it is not possible to neglect that they remain only advisory, technical standards to be implemented by States and international organizations on a voluntary basis through their own practices and practices. As explicitly stated, in Section 3, the Guidelines are not legally binding under international law. Thus, they do not establish any legal duty to comply with them and their violation would not generate any legal responsibility and liability in the case of damage caused by such a misconduct.

For these reasons, the delegation of the Czech Republic extended in 2011 a Working Paper on the Review of the Legal Aspects of Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the COPUOS, with a view to transforming the Guidelines into a set of principles to be adopted by the General Assembly. According to our proposal, the COPUOS Guidelines could be enacted in a special resolution of the United Nations General Assembly which would belong to the series of United Nations principles relating to outer space activities that were adopted during the 1980s and 1990s.

Our delegation hopes that the discussion on the inclusion of this new item on space debris in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, which started at the last session, will continue and at the fifty-first session of this body in 2012. Therefore, my delegation warmly welcomes the mentioning of this proposal by the distinguished representative of the Federal Republic of Germany which suggested that the discussions on this item should be reflected in our agenda again this year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you very much distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic for your statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of the United States of America.

Mr. B. ISRAEL (*United States of America*)

Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Subcommittee. My delegation is pleased that you have taken on this responsibility. We are certain that the Subcommittee will continue to make important contributions to the refinement and development of outer space law under your leadership.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Chairman for his leadership.

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

COPUOS and the Subcommittee have a distinguished history of working through consensus to develop space law in a manner that promotes rather than hinders the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In particular, the Subcommittee should be commended for its role in establishing the core space treaties, the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, and the Liability and Registration Conventions.

Under the legal framework of these treaties, use of space by nations, international organizations and private entities has flourished. As a result, space technology and services contribute immeasurably to the economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world.

This session is also an important opportunity for us to consider the fact that many States have not acceded to the four core treaties, including some members of COPUOS. The Subcommittee should invite States and international organizations to consider ratifying and implementing the four core space law instruments, and, of course, it should encourage States that have accepted the core instruments to look at the sufficiency of their respective national laws to implement them.

Before turning to the work of this Subcommittee, I would like to comment briefly about recent space-related activities in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate for the member States that the United States National Space Policy 28 June 2010 calls for increased emphasis on international cooperation to promote the peaceful use of outer space in a wider range of areas. The United States is expanding its work in the United Nations,

with other organizations and with other governments to address the growing problems of space debris and the best practices for the sustainable use of space.

The United States will also pursue pragmatic transparency and confidence-building measures to mitigate the risk of mishaps, misperceptions and miscalculations.

The new policy affirms that the United States will pursue bilateral and multilateral transparency and confidence-building measures to encourage responsible actions in and the peaceful use of space.

The United States will also consider proposals and concepts for arms control measures if they are equitable and effectively verifiable and enhance the national security interests of the United States and its allies.

Mr. Chairman, during 2011, NASA completed the final three Space Shuttle missions, all to the International Space Station. The February mission was the Space Shuttle Discovery's thirty-ninth and final flight. This mission was unique in that it was the only time that the United States Space Shuttle, two Russian Soyuz capsules and a Russian Progress Vehicle, the European Space Agency's Automated Transfer Vehicle, and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's H-II Transfer Vehicle were all docked at the ISS at the same time.

The main mission was the final flight of the Space Shuttle Endeavour and the July mission was the final flight for Space Shuttle Atlantis and the last flight of the Space Shuttle Programme.

Over the course of the 30-year Space Shuttle Programme, the Space Shuttles flew 135 flights, transported 852 Shuttle flyers from 16 different countries and logged 540 million miles.

The year 2011 was also in many ways the year of the solar system, as NASA called it. The year began with the encounter of the Stardex Next Mission with the Comet Tempel-1, a comet previously visited and impacted by the Deep Impact Mission in 2005.

In March, the Messenger Spacecraft entered orbit around Mercury and in July the Dawn Spacecraft entered orbit around Asteroid Vesta.

August marks the launch of the Juno Mission to Jupiter and the arrival of the Mars Opportunity Rover at Endurance Crater on the surface of Mars.

September witnessed the launch of the GRAIL Mission to the Moon and November closed with the launch of the Mars Science Laboratory, a car-sized Rover that is scheduled to arrive at Mars in August 2012.

The year closed with the insertion of the GRAIL Spacecraft into orbit around the Moon on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

This is in addition to those missions continuing to operate throughout the solar system, including the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, Pluto New Horizons and others.

In 2011, NASA's space telescopes continued to make unprecedented observations. Hubble, with its imagery, Spitzer looking at the Universe in infrared, Chandra with its x-ray observatory, Kepler is searching for planets and, Fermi exploring the most extreme environments in the Universe, all contributing enormously to the world's knowledge of outer space.

These missions and many more that I don't have time here to mention, are being undertaken to unlock the mysteries of our Universe for the benefit of all mankind.

Mr. Chairman, let me now highlight United States activities in the Earth observation realm.

The NPOESS Preparatory Project was successfully launched in October 2011. NPP is a polar orbiting weather and climate monitoring satellite that will improve weather forecasts and advance Earth and climate science and provide critical environmental data to forecast and mitigate disasters.

On 6 December 2011, GOES-15, the newest spacecraft in the fleet of geostationary operational environmental satellites, was launched. GOES-15 carries four main instruments, including an Earth imager and sounder, a space environmental monitor, and a solar energizer.

During its mission, GOES-15 will not only be used for terrestrial weather applications, but also to track space weather, oceanographic features, forests and fire and other hazards, and to provide scientific data collection and information for search and rescue operations.

NOAA plans to launch its next generation Geostationary Programme, GOES-R, in 2015. Together, the new systems will provide unprecedented

amounts of weather and climate-related data to environmental and research communities worldwide.

Additionally, NASA assumed a leadership role in the international Earth science community in November 2011, by becoming Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, Strategic Implementation Team, for a two-year term.

CEOS consists of 29 national space agencies and 21 international organizations that work together to coordinate civil space-borne observations of Earth. Participating agencies strive to enhance international coordination and data exchange and to optimize societal benefit.

As Chair of SIT, NASA is in the position to help guide international strategic planning on research benefits and science applications of satellite-based Earth observations.

The United States Geological Survey continues to operate the Landsat-5 and -7 satellites and to make their data available to users worldwide. Landsat provides essential information for land surface monitoring, eco-systems management, disaster mitigation and climate change research.

The year 2012 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Landsat series of satellites. The United States Geological Survey, NASA and NOAA are planning both national and international activities to celebrate Landsat's continuous flow of data over four decades.

Since 2008, when the full Landsat Image Archive was made available to users free of charge over the Internet, we have witnessed phenomenal growth in the delivery of Landsat scenes to users worldwide.

By August 2011, the United States Geological Survey had provided six million Landsat scenes to users in 186 countries. The free availability of this geographic information system, land imaging data, is having a tremendous impact on Earth system science and land surface monitoring.

Through our participation in the Group of Earth Observations, we are supporting a Geo-Data-Sharing Action Plan which encourages nations to share data from current and future satellite systems and to open up access to previously unavailable datasets.

With the efforts to make these data available, are critical for advancing the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System.

NASA and the United States Geological Survey are working in partnership to develop the space and ground systems for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission, which will be renamed Landsat-8 after its planned January 2013 launch and on-orbit checkout.

The satellite will continue the collection of moderate resolution land imagery that began in 1972. The United States Geological Survey will make Landsat-8 data freely available to users worldwide through an easy-to-use web interface. NASA and the United States Geological Survey are currently studying mission continuity options for the post-Landsat-8 era in the context of the United States for a national land imaging programme.

As we proceed with our work at this session, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reflect once again on the extraordinary record of success the Subcommittee has had in advancement in the field of space law. I believe that much of the success is due to the Subcommittee's ability to focus on practical problems and to seek to address any such problems via a consensus-based and results-oriented process.

In our discussions, we should aim to continue that tradition and to avoid the temptation to focus on theoretical rather than practical issues.

In addition, the Subcommittee's success may be attributed to its avoidance of protracted debate on extraneous political issues.

Thank you for your consideration. My delegation looks forward to a productive and fruitful session.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States for his statement.

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

I do not see any so we will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 4, General Exchange of Views, tomorrow morning.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to inform you that I have received a request from the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the opportunity to briefly address the Legal Subcommittee in the time left for this morning's meeting.

Therefore, if there are no objections, I would like to give the floor at this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and on behalf of the

Legal Subcommittee, invite her to deliver her statement.

Seeing no objections, I give the floor to the Director, Mrs. Mazlan Othman.

Ms. M. OTHMAN (*Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, I warmly welcome you all to the fifty-first of this Subcommittee and thank you for the opportunity to address this session of the Subcommittee on the work of the Office over the past year in areas related to space law.

We are pleased to welcome you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulate you on your election. My colleagues and I assure you of our commitment to assist you in running the meetings.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, to mark the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Office in 2011 launched a new initiative in order to contribute a broader understanding of the international legal regime on outer space.

On our website, you can now find a new set of pages entitled "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space: Travaux Préparatoires". The web pages contain a collection of official records of the negotiations for the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention, and the first set of principles adopted by the General Assembly on Outer Space, namely the Declaration on Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space.

The collection consists of nearly 1,000 documents. The collection is located at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs web site.

Each treaty and the Declaration has an individual webpage containing a collection of corresponding documentation. The documentation is organized by a series symbol and within each series it is listed chronologically.

In addition, for each treaty and the Declaration, a spreadsheet version of the list of sources is available at the top of the page enabling the user to sort the documents by date or by document symbol. The immediate next step is to include the preparatory works for the Registration Convention and Moon Agreement so that all five treaties are covered.

With regard to the United Nations Register on Objects Launched into Outer Space, maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the 1976 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and a General Assembly resolution 1721/16B of 20 December(?) 1961, in the past year, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, as well as the European Space Agency, furnished information on the space objects under the Registration Convention.

In addition, the Office is pleased to report that following the launch of its first satellite, PWSAT, earlier this year, Poland recently submitted registration information in accordance with the Registration Convention.

Delegates may be interested to note that since 1961, approximately 93 per cent of all functional space objects, such as satellites, probes, manned spacecraft and space station components, have been registered with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Notwithstanding the progress being made, the Office would like to once again encourage all member States who have launched and/or operate space objects to register them with the Secretary-General in accordance with the Registration Convention or General Assembly resolution 1721B/16.

With regard to implementation of resolution 62/101 on registration practices, the Office continues its dialogue with member States and intergovernmental organizations on this issue. It should be noted that their willingness to review and revise those practices are resulting in a greater number of States and intergovernmental organizations harmonizing their registration practices.

In the coming year, the Office intends to revise the model registration form, prepared in accordance with resolution 62/101 and would be grateful for feedback from States and organizations in this regard.

The Office would also like to invite those States and organizations that have not done so, to provide the Office with contact details of their designated focal point for registration issues.

Ladies and gentlemen, Article 2 of the Registration Convention on the Establishment of National Space Objects Registries is often overlooked. The Office is, therefore, pleased to report that

Kazakhstan has recently informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the establishment of its national registry. The Office would like to invite parties that have not done so to inform the Secretary-General accordingly.

As in the past, the Office will continue to assist member States on matters relating to the registration of space objects.

With regard to implementing the other obligations of the Secretary-General, the Office is pleased to inform delegations that it has received and disseminated supplementary information provided by the Netherlands on Telecommunication Satellite NSS-5, under Article 11 of the Outer Space Treaty.

In addition, the Office received and disseminated information provided by Uruguay under Article 5 of the Rescue Agreement on the recovery of a space object within its territory.

In accordance with Principle 4 on the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, the General Assembly resolution 47/68, the Office also received and disseminated information received from the United States of America on the launch of its nuclear-powered Mars Science Laboratory, MSL, which was launched in November 2011.

The Office continues to serve as the United Nations Focal Point on re-entry of nuclear-powered space objects for the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations. In this capacity, the Office maintains close contact with the Incident and Emergency Response Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the coordinating entity for the Plan and provides notifications of nuclear-powered space objects, as well as supplementary information on other space objects re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Office has updated the status of the United Nations treaties on outer space which is before you. Therein, you will find information on States Parties and additional signatories to the United Nations treaties and other international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2012.

The accession of Estonia brought the number of States that have ratified the Outer Space Treaty to 101. Twenty-six other parties have signed the Treaty.

The Rescue Agreement has 91 States Parties and 24 signatory States.

The Liability Convention has 88 States Parties and 23 signatory States.

The Registration Convention has 55 States Parties and four signatory States.

And the Moon Agreement has 13 States Parties and four signatory States.

In addition, I have been informed that after 1 January 2012, two more ratifications have been recorded by the United Nations who serves as the depository for the Registration Convention and the Moon Agreement. South Africa acceded to the Registration Convention on 27 January 2012 and Turkey acceded to the Moon Agreement on 29 February 2012.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I wish to draw your attention to two sessions offered by the Office during the Fourth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 26 to 28 September 2011.

The sessions entitled "Capacity-Building in Space Law" and "Space Technology and Law" addressed the needs for capacity-building in space law in Africa, space law development in Africa, the responsibility, liability and registration obligations under their space law treaties, international law and domestic legal systems with an emphasis on space law in Nigeria and South Africa and space debris mitigation and space law.

I would also like to mention that planning and preparations are ongoing for the next United Nations Workshop on Space Law, to be hosted by Argentina in November or December 2012. The Workshop will be co-organized by the Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales, or CONAE.

As a result of the ongoing project in developing a curriculum on space law for the Regional Centres on Space Science and Technology Education, which are affiliated to the United Nations, the Subcommittee was provided in 2011 with the latest draft of the curriculum as the next step. A detailed review of the resources will be undertaken and the different components will be aligned for consistency.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as part of the Basic Space Technology Initiative, BSTI, in the

framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the Office has organized special sessions on the regulatory and legal aspects of small satellite activities. These sessions were held in conjunction with a series of symposiums on small satellite programmes, held from 2009 to 2011, in Graz, Austria, and with the Fourth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, ALC 2011, as stated earlier.

Presentations at the Workshops addressed the registration of space objects with the United Nations, the requirements placed on space missions by space debris mitigation guidelines and in close cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union, ITU, the procedures for frequency coordination.

It is generally recognized that there are difficulties faced by small satellite programmes in terms of frequency band allocation and coordination and codification (notification?). We are pleased, therefore, to note that the World Radio Conference held in Geneva in 2012 in resolution COM6/11, the World Radio Conference invited ITUR to examine the procedures for notifying space networks and consider possible modifications to enable the deployment and operation of nano and pico satellites, taking into account the short development time, short mission time and unique orbital corrector stakes, and further instructed the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to report to WRC15 on the results of these studies.

The Office and the Basic Space Technology Initiative will continue to cooperate closely with the ITU and other relevant parties to address regulatory and legal aspects of small satellite activities. A special session on standardization and regulatory issues will be organized at the forthcoming United Nations/Japan Nano-Satellites Symposium, to be held in October of this year.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, allow me to remind you that according to the agreement of the Committee in document A/58/20, Annex I of Annex I and II, nominations for the Bureaux of the Committee and its Subcommittees, for the period 2014-2015, should be made at this upcoming session of the Committee in June 2012. According to the established rotation scheme, the nominations by the Regional Groups should be made as follows: Chair of the Committee, Group of African States, First Vice-Chair of the Committee, Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Second Vice-Chair or Rapporteur of the Committee, Group of Asian States, Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, Group of Western European and

Other States. The Eastern European Group has already made the nomination of Mr. Elod Both from Hungary for the post of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at the session of the Committee in 2011.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to inform you that due to technical reasons, some of the space-law-related web tools are presently unavailable. The tools particularly affected included the registration documents indices, the online index of objects launched into outer space, the National Space Law Database and the Treaties Status Database. The Office is taking measures to rectify the situation and it is hoped that the tools will be operating normally in the very near future and we request your understanding in this regard.

In the coming months, the Office will be working with the UNODC Information Technology Services on upgrading and improving its website and also the various space law tools integrated into the space law sub-site.

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

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

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee but before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. I will then suspend the meeting of the Subcommittee to allow time for the Symposium. The 840th meeting of the Subcommittee will be adjourned at the conclusion of the Symposium.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I have also been requested by the Secretariat to make an announcement to delegates. I shall now give the floor to the Secretary of the Subcommittee.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (*Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, a brief announcement. There will be a meeting with the European Union today at 2.00 p.m. in M0E-19. I repeat

an EU meeting at 2.00 p.m. today at M0E-19. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, I would finally like to inform you that the provisional list of participants for this Subcommittee's session will be distributed during this week. I would request all delegations that have not done so already to send an official letter with the names of their representatives to the Secretariat as soon as possible so they can be included on this provisional list of participants.

Distinguished delegates, this meeting is now adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at ???????