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

Script

875th Meeting

Thursday, 18 April 2013, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. T. Brisibe (Nigeria)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 875th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning the Chief of the Conference Management Services will present the enhanced website for digital recordings.

We will continue our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee on New Items for Consideration by the Subcommittee.

I will then suspend our meeting so that the Working Groups on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and on Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, can hold their final meetings with a view to adopting their reports.

We will reconvene to conclude our consideration of agenda item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, with the view to endorsing the report of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2013/TRE/L.1.

Time permitting, we will also conclude our consideration of agenda item 6(a), Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, with the view to endorsing the report of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2013/DEF/L.1.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed to the presentation by Conference Management Services on the website for digital recordings. I invite the Chief of Conference Management Services, Mr. Imre Karbuczky, to take the floor.

Mr. I. KARBUCZKY (Conference Management Services): Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. Answering the request of COPUOS, we hold out to you last year the digital recording system which is a simple and inexpensive solution that we built on existing tools that uses advanced technologies. Our Global Meetings Management System, GMIT(?), is its platform, together with a digital system that produces audio files for archival purposes.

There is a public web interface on the Office for Outer Space Affairs website to access the digital recordings and this is what you see on the screen and I am sure many of you visited the site as we have the possibility to track usage of the site so I can tell you some figures later about that.

The solution is very simple. During the meeting all the interpretation channels and the floor sound are recorded digitally and an electronic log is showing the list of speakers is also created. So if you click on the session then you have all the meetings of that session listed. This is the speakers log and when you open the log, you have the list of speakers there.

These are available technically, immediately after the meeting and if you so wish actually we can show you also the current session and we can upload that also to the website so you pretty much have this service available to you while in session. These files are accessible through both GMIT(?) for the Secretariat and through the Office for Outer Space Affairs website for the public. A search by date, title or meeting is technically also possible. However, since we only have two sessions or if we include the third session today, only three sessions on the site we deactivated this search function based on user feedback and actually we are showing, as you can see, all the available sessions without you searching for the session.

Now the system offers two options. As I mentioned you can go to the speakers log and then

instantly listen to statements or you can download the whole recording of that particular meeting, either of the six languages or the floor channel you can download and then you can listen to the whole meeting. Downloading obviously takes some time and requires some space so the instant option is going to the speakers log and there you can instantly listen to any of the statements.

We also included a help file which tells you basically what I am telling you on how to manipulate the system.

As we mentioned before, there is a possibility for the Secretariat to upload additional material and the script is available of the meeting so you can look at the script and then listen to the statement you would like to hear and you can do that in any of the languages.

In addition to the script, there is additional material that can be uploaded, written statements, presentations, etc., in case the Committee so decides.

As you have been using the system you can see that this is a viable alternative to written meeting records. It has several advantages. It was inexpensive. It required a one time \$40,000 development. It is built on global applications so other duty stations can also take advantage of it. The digital audio files present are a fully authentic audio recording of the floor, language version that is, and as I mentioned, the recordings are immediately available after the session unlike written meeting records, summary records or verbatim records which are produced sometimes months or even years after the meeting.

The return on the original investment last year was already double. We saved \$80,000 by not producing the six language transcripts that we have done until 2011.

The feedback that we have from the Secretariat and delegates are positive. The Secretariat and delegates are using the system quite a bit. We record hundreds of visits and downloads a month. We have received no complaints so far but some good suggestions and based on those suggestions we implemented some changes in the system, including we reversed the two options so we show now the speakers log and with the audio recordings as the first option and download of the whole file as the second option.

You would be pleased to note that your leadership has produced followers. UNCITRAL decided last year to pilot the tool also until 2014 in parallel with the summary records and will then they

decide whether to discontinue with the summary records altogether. Interest is growing. Other bodies here in Vienna, the Commissions showed some interest in it. The Secretariat of other bodies are using it as well and UNIDO has also presented the General Conference a proposal to introduce the digital recordings to replace summary records.

The latest changes, as I mentioned, include that we took away that the search functionality at the beginning since only two sessions are there for the time being, whilst we have more than one page of sessions listed then we can re-introduce the search. And the uploading of the script is now there and is possible. And, as I mentioned, if you so wish, we can already produce these digital recordings in-session so soon after the morning session it can appear on the side and the afternoon session can be up by the following morning.

Thank you very much. If you have questions, of course, I would be happy to answer. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Karbuczky and his colleagues for this presentation.

Are there any delegates that have questions for the presenter?

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. R. LEFEBER (Netherlands): Thank you Mr. Chairman and good morning colleagues. We do not have a question for Conference Services but we would like to thank Conference Services for the presentation and for the improvements that have been made to the audio recordings and we would like to express our satisfaction with the system that has been developed. However, we continue to hope that at some point in the future it will be possible to web cast these meetings live because we believe that that will enhance transparency and accountability. But I understand that will remain for now a future ambition.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the Netherlands and are there any other delegates that have questions for the presenter?

Perhaps on my part then, I could suggest that it would be certainly very useful if, as you indicated, if we could have the audio recordings available on the website as soon as possible so delegations can reflect on the statements that have been made because we

have a working pattern that takes statements on agenda items of 24 to 48 hour periods so we can have the morning statements uploaded and have them ready by the afternoon and the afternoon's statements by the following morning, if that would facilitate the debate and our proceedings as a whole.

In the absence of any questions for the presenter, I should once again, on your behalf, express our appreciation for making this tool available to us and at our disposal. Thank you very much.

Proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee (agenda item 13)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee on New Items for Consideration by the Subcommittee.

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

Mr. K. CHUNG (Republic of Korea): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving us the chance to address this new agenda item.

The Korean delegation would first like to express its appreciation and satisfaction on the remarkable records of the Legal Subcommittee in advancing the development of the space law in a manner that has been promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes since its establishment in 1962.

My delegation also believes that such success resulted from the Subcommittee's focus on the practical solution to the difficult legal challenges facing the member States that are indifferent stages in their space development and the resolve to meeting those challenges through consensus-based and results-oriented processes.

Mr. Chairman, the Korean delegation believes that the new agenda item suggested by the Japanese delegation could introduce much needed impetus to revitalize the discussions in the Subcommittee in the issue of finding applicable norms and principles in the space activities. Furthermore, the suggestion would shed light on the much over-looked issue of non-legally binding instruments which have been the basis of space activities for various actors at all levels.

Against this backdrop, we would like to note that significant changes have occurred in the structure

and content of the space endeavours, reflected in the emergence of new technologies and particularly the increasing number of actors at all levels, as mentioned in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.291.

At the same time, given the growing need for consideration in the issues on the safety and sustainability of outer space activities, an attention must be given that there is disproportionate want of adequate information on how States and international organizations including non-governmental entities implement United Nations principles, declarations, guidelines and frameworks.

However, my delegation also is mindful of the issues raised by the distinguished delegate from China yesterday, namely the exact nature and future usages of the outcome at the end of the three-year long discussion and deliberation on the proposed agenda item. We are also of the view that such reservation on moving forward with the proposal could have been averted had the agenda item been given enough time to be explained to the wider audience of this Subcommittee beforehand.

Given the innovative nature of the proposal itself, my delegation would like to express its support for the new agenda item submitted by Japan and also hope to achieve consensus on the result-oriented process of the new agenda item during the current session.

Mr. Chairman, regardless of the result to be reached during this session on the proposed agenda item, my delegation would like to suggest an additional opportunity to address this issue at the IISL/ECSL Symposium to be held at the next year's session of this Subcommittee with the possible title such as "The Soft Law on the Space Activities".

Lastly, the Korean delegation would like to reiterate that a general consensus among delegations in the floor should be achieved on this agenda item prior to the next session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

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

I understand consultations have been held regarding the proposal for a new agenda item on "General Exchange of Information and Practices in Relation to Non-Legally Binding Instruments for Outer

Space Activities” and I have been informed that consultations are ongoing.

In the meantime, I should give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In addition to what the Chair just mentioned that informal consultations are indeed ongoing, the Secretariat has been informed by the delegation of Japan to arrange a meeting room for further informal consultations among interested delegations that will start immediately after the adjournment of this morning’s session of the plenary and those consultations will then be held in Meeting Room MOE100.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Do any other delegations wish to take the floor at this time regarding this item 13, Proposals for New Items?

I see none.

Organizational matters

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to organizational matters.

As you will recall on the opening day of our session, we had the pleasure of participating in a Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law, IISL, and the European Centre for Space, ECSL, on the theme “The UNIDROIT Space Protocol”. With your permission, distinguished delegates, I would like to propose that we invite the IISL and ECSL to organize a symposium also in 2014 during the fifty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee.

If I see no objections,

It is so decided.

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under organizational matters or other aspects of this agenda item at this time?

I see none.

We will, therefore, continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the

Committee on New Items for Consideration by the Subcommittee, this afternoon.

Reports of the Working Groups

Distinguished delegates, I will now suspend this meeting so that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space can conduct its final meeting with a view to adopting its report.

The meeting was suspended at 10.36 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10.47 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I now reconvene the 875th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, with the view to endorsing the report of the Working Group.

I would now like to present the report of the Working Group on Agenda Item 4 in my capacity as Acting Chairman for that Working Group.

Distinguished delegates, as you know, the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Jean-François Mayence, had to leave Vienna and he asked me to assist him in the adoption of the report of the Working Group which was prepared during his work and presence here. Therefore, please allow me to present the report as the Acting Chairman of the Working Group.

The report of the Working Group, which has just been adopted by its members, is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2013/TRE/L.1.

I hereby submit the report to the Subcommittee for its endorsement.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to endorse the report of the Working Group on Agenda Item 4, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2013/TRE/L.1.

Do I take it that the Subcommittee endorses the report of the Working Group on Agenda Item 4?

The report of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space is endorsed.

We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to suspend our meeting so that the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space can hold its final meeting with a view to adopting its report.

The 875th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee is now suspended.

The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 11.01 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 6(a), Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, with the view to endorsing the report of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

I would like to give the floor to the Acting Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, Mr. André Rypl of Brazil to present the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Rypl, you have the floor.

Mr. A. J. RYPL (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as you recall, Professor Monserrat, Chairman of the Working Group on Item 6(a), Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, had to leave us last week and I was, therefore, asked to present the report on his behalf.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the work of the Working Group on Agenda Item 6(a), Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, at the current session of the Legal Subcommittee was very productive and successful.

The Working Group held three meetings, during which it was able to elaborate a number of recommendations and _____(?) up to several decisions which constitute a good foundation for its

future work at its meeting during the fifty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2014.

The report of the Working Group, as it has just been adopted by its members, is contained in the document A/AC.105/C.2/2013/DEF/L.1.

It is my pleasure to submit the report to the Subcommittee for its adoption.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Rypl for that report.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to endorse the report of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2013/DEF/L.1.

Do I take it that the Subcommittee endorses the report of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space?

The report of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space is endorsed.

We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 6(a), Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

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

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee on New Items for Consideration by the Subcommittee.

We will begin with the adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee.

And I should now give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As was announced by the Secretary this morning, there will be informal consultations under the guidance of the delegation of Japan for all interested delegations, starting 15 minutes after the adjournment of this plenary meeting in Room M0E100.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

The meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11.06 a.m.