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

Script

874th Meeting

Wednesday, 17 April 2013, 3 p.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. T. Brisibe (Nigeria)

The meeting was called to order at 3.16 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 874th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda items 10, Capacity-Building in Space Law, and 12, Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

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

I would also like to remind delegations to provide the Secretariat with any written amendments to the provisional list of participants distributed as Conference Room Paper 2 by today close of business so that the Secretariat can distribute the final list tomorrow.

Capacity-building in space law (agenda item 10)

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

Are there any delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item at this time? This is item 10, Capacity-Building in Space Law.

I see none.

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

Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (agenda item 12)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

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

Mr. F. MENICOCCHI (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my delegation is very happy to see this item included in the Subcommittee's agenda since international cooperation is one of the pillars of our national space programme being carried out by the National Space Commission, CONAE.

The legal framework for our cooperation is very diverse. We have intergovernmental agreements, agreements with international organizations, inter-institutional conventions, Memoranda of Understanding, membership in various charters and mechanisms, joint declarations and so forth. This has made it possible for us to develop joint satellite missions, participate in constellations of satellites, carry out satellite information application projects and engage in capacity trading as well as projects for deep space exploration.

At the governmental level, we have agreements with Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, the United States, India, Russia, Italy, Algeria, Libya and Ukraine.

With regards to agreements with agencies and institutions, we have those with agencies in the United States, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, China, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Spain, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay

These agreements have made it possible for us to participate in four joint missions with NASA with the support of Canada, Italy, France, Denmark and Brazil. We were also able to develop SIASGE, the

Italian-Argentine Satellite System for Emergency Management, a constellation comprised of four Italian satellites and two Italo-Argentine satellites.

Mr. Chairman, Argentina cooperates with the United Nations through the Office for Outer Space Affairs. We have a long history of joint organization of conferences, congresses, seminars, workshops and training courses on a variety of subjects, basic science, the use of satellite information and emergencies, health, protection of the world's heritage, sustainable development and high mountainous zones, space law, just to cite a few, and these are based on pertinent legal instruments.

Also CONAE has signed an agreement with the Office for Outer Space Affairs to host in Argentina a Technical Office in support of the SPIDER Platform on a regional basis.

I would like to note that these joint activities with the Office for Outer Space Affairs have always involved the European Space Agency. ESA has been present in the region for decades and has worked very closely in our capacity-building and preparing various workshops throughout Latin America. The fruits of this intensive cooperation was the agreement signed between ESA and Argentina in December of last year and on that basis, in Malargue, the province of Mendoza, we established the third DS-3 ESA Satellite Dish for interplanetary mission control.

Also CONAE has joined ESA's and UNESCO's initiative to use satellite information for monitoring and protecting world heritage sites which has made it possible to realize related activities in Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador and Argentina.

With respect to deep space exploration, in addition to the ESA project, Argentina will work on the Lunar Exploration Project carried out by China by establishing in the Neuquén province in Argentina, a satellite dish for monitoring Chinese missions in outer space. We are very satisfied with this cooperation over these important international projects.

CONAE, in addition, as a member of the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters, not only as an image provider but also as a provider of training and capacity-building on a regional basis. We have carried out courses in Argentina, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Chile, Peru and Ecuador.

Furthermore, we have participated in various regional initiatives, such as the Ibero-American Ash Network which works with various countries to collect

information in the volcanology sphere with regard to providing early warning for volcanic ash plumes that impede air and navigation.

Andesat is another mechanism established by institutions of the Andean countries to exchange information and develop projects using space technologies for sustainable development in mountainous regions throughout the Andes.

Another project I wanted to highlight is the Pan-American School of Epidemiology. It brings together experts, epidemiologists from countries of the region and uses satellite information to map risks, ensure warning and monitoring of epidemics in the region for such diseases as Dengue, Malaria, Chagas, Leshmaniasis, the virus Hanta and others

The third edition of the Epidemiologist School organized by CONAE, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, will be held from 27 May to 7 June this year, 2013, in Cordoba, Argentina, and already 11 countries of the region have named experts who will participate.

Another project is called the Mario Gulich Institute of High-Space Studies, created by CONAE and the University of Cordoba in Argentina, with the support of the Italian Government and the Italian Space Agency to develop training projects for all of Latin America in such areas as emergencies and health. The Institute will offer a Masters Degree Course on Early Warning and Emergencies lasting two years with the participation of scholarship winners from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

And finally, last but not least, is the Space Conference of the Americas. Argentina participates in a very active manner in this regional mechanism of cooperation which coordinates common policies for the region and provides incentives for the creation of space agencies in Latin America.

I would also like to emphasize our participation in CEO and GEOS.

We have, thus, I think, amply demonstrated that on the basis of legal assistance and international cooperation in the space law domain, we have carried out intensive projects working with all the agencies in the region.

Thank you.

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

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

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. M. A. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My delegation believes that international cooperation is important and, therefore, Saudi Arabia in its special city has concluded a number of agreements with many countries, the United States, South Africa, as well as agreements with many universities, especially the Jordanian(?) University. We have received satellite information and data and we have engaged in joint projects which have led to developing the space sciences. We believe that international cooperation is indeed important and should be maintained and inscribed as an important agenda item in our meetings in the COPUOS and its two Subcommittees.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Yes, I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico.

Ms. R. M. RAMÍREZ DE ARELLANO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We had a statement but basically on this agenda item we wanted to point out that in our statement under item 3, General Exchange of Views, we already addressed many of our activities that would fall under this item as well.

We currently hold the Pro Tempore Secretariat position in the Space Conference of the Americas. We have been involved in the creation of space agencies throughout the region along with Argentina.

Also, today, while we had a presentation here by experts on behalf of the European Space Agency, JAXA, NASA and Roscosmos, we did not speak specifically but we have been involved in the process of negotiations that have a direct bearing under these instruments and also on a specific issue that has to do

with survival and living side-by-side in tight quarters in an International Space Station with a view to developing a Code of Conduct to ensure good teamwork, good communication, good participation. This task is also a very important issue not only on the level of international cooperation but also on a very practical level. How can we live side-by-side and work together in the same limited space and be productive and mutually respectful. This is something that we have been involved in and Dr. Frank has mentioned it but we believe it is an incredibly important issue, living for a long time in an enclosed space in a Space Station and avoiding problems.

I can tell you specific stories that have arisen over the years in terms of joint life and work in that manner.

Thank you very much.

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

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

I see none.

Before we conclude the item, and in the absence of any delegations wishing to take the floor, I should give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Secretariat wish to raise a couple of issues that we have been thinking of in how to prepare for next year's consideration under this particular agenda item when we know that the Working Group will be convened and maybe we can have some exchange of views on whether there should be a more precise invitation to member States in submitting contributions until next year.

In a nutshell, what we did, delegations remember that the item was decided upon at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee and I refer to the Work Plan of this agenda item which is contained in paragraph 179 of the Legal Subcommittee report from last year, document 1003. The Secretariat invited member States to report or contribute on the range of existing international space cooperation mechanisms. That is the mandate that we had for this particular session, this plenary session of this particular agenda item. We have, of course, received some written accounts by member States that we have had before us for this session. In addition, we have heard many

statements and we have been provided with very good information in both the written statements being delivered at this session and also in oral interventions under this agenda item.

What the Secretariat would like to explore with the Subcommittee is that when we send out invitations for contributions to next year's session of the Legal Subcommittee when we know that we will have a Working Group and in the interest of allowing the Working Group to have some more information before it, we would like to propose whether we could also specify what is written under the second year in the Work Plan, which means under 2014, which means that we would invite member States to submit contributions on the range of existing international space cooperation mechanisms including existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, non-binding arrangements, principles, technical guidelines and other cooperative mechanisms.

In that sense, the Secretariat believes that it might be easier for member States to contribute in writing to the next year's session of the Legal Subcommittee, and, of course, submissions, if they are received by the Secretariat within the deadline, they will be produced in the document in all official languages of the United Nations.

So, Mr. Chairman, this is just an idea from the Secretariat to maybe make it easier for member States to tackle this issue in their reporting, in their contribution, that will be before we assume the Legal Subcommittee next year and any ideas, any comments from member States are, of course, welcome to the Secretariat.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I should thank the Secretariat for providing that recommendation on how best to already facilitate the work and the preparations ahead of deliberations that we expect will become more robust during the course of the upcoming session of the Legal Subcommittee on this item, Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, item 12.

Are there any delegations wishing to comment or is there any need for clarification regarding this recommendation on our proposed method of gathering information under this agenda item which has just been made by the Secretariat?

Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of Japan.

Ms. S. AOKI (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not sure this is not exactly the statement of the Japanese delegation more rather as a newly elected Chairperson of the Working Group of Agenda Item 12. I would like to reiterate my sincere gratitude to those who supported my candidacy and from next year I promise with my limited ability and do my very best to engage this Working Group under the agenda item 12 very honestly.

I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished delegates of this room, last year when this agenda item was adopted, member States were already invited to provide information about international cooperation on various aspects and successfully already more than several, approximately 10 documents have been submitted to the Secretariat and yesterday and today, even from the day before yesterday, we had very vivacious discussions about how international cooperation has been engaged.

This is only year one and the Work Plan reads like this, exchange of information on the range of existing international space cooperation mechanisms. But next year, it says continue the exchange of information, establish a Working Group, request the Secretariat to prepare a report categorizing the range of mechanisms for international cooperation.

So from next year, we will enter into the work stage of preparing a report categorizing the range of international cooperation and, as we all know, time passes very fast so from now we have to prepare for the next year and I would like to reiterate some urgent necessity and I fully support the suggestion by the Secretariat to make some kind of more specific, even as another questionnaire, specifically request how to submit the mode of international cooperation.

In discussion with the Secretariat, as the Chairperson of the Working Group from next year, I would like to elaborate the kind of, if it is not a questionnaire, a kind of a request, then in writing shortly even if it has to be in all United Nations languages, it would be difficult, at least in English, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, it would be _____(?) how to collect the information. Of course, if it suits the work schedule of the Secretariat, it is alright and if it is not possible considering the heavy workload of the Secretariat, after the close of the Legal Subcommittee, it will be duly distributed how to collect the information.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the newly elected Chair of the Working Group which will be constituted next year on the item, Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

And just to be clear, or before I give the floor to the Secretariat to perhaps answer a question that has been raised by the incoming Chair, to give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my delegation can support had been proposed by the Secretariat concerning the way forward. We would like to make a couple of points.

First, the request for information should not be limited to just the member States but should also be addressed to the permanent observers and international organizations, and, as we had noted on Monday, we should be expansive in looking at this question. So not only should we be looking at various concrete mechanisms but we should also be looking at other, what you might call, processes or events, for example, the International Space Year resulted in the establishment of several other groups to follow up on recommendations that had emerged from ISY. You might have included also mention of the three UNISPACE conferences that we have had that have not only results in specific recommendations but then follow-on mechanisms, for example, the Action Teams that we established after UNISPACE III.

Perhaps in addressing the request to the member States and permanent observers, you may want to consider giving some examples of what we would be interested in and which would then help particularly the observers determine what they might contribute.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the United States for this recommendation and give the floor to the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. M. A. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to support the proposal by the Secretariat. I have a request. We listened to a presentation, a very useful and excellent presentation that would open the windows of opportunity for cooperation with States. We did that this morning. We would like to express our appreciation to all those

presenters and now that they have left this room, can we express our appreciation to the presenters by giving them a round of applause.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia and can only echo your sentiments by stating it is always better late than never.

I should now give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman and the Secretariat really appreciates this exchange of views because it is important for the Working Group next year to be able to start doing some really productive work.

The agenda item will be concluded today and the suggestion from the Secretariat at this stage is the following, that the Secretariat gets together with the elected Chair of the Working Group and we will provide some language reflection on how we could categorize already at this stage for the reporting until next year and we would put that in a clear language under this section of the draft report for adoption on Friday so that delegations will have these elements in all languages before them.

So, Mr. Chairman, if that is agreeable, we will do accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN: I should thank the Secretariat, and to summarize what steps we will be taking subsequently, the Secretariat, in consultation with the incoming Chair of this Working Group will detail how the information, the envelope that will be requesting delegations to provide information about, have that clearly identified and then reflected in the report of this session of the Legal Subcommittee which, in turn, will be translated into all the official languages. That should set the stage for the request and that will be sent out to delegations and hopefully which will then result in information that you, the Chair, in the context of the Working Group, which will then kick off, will then begin to essentially use inputting(?) your efforts.

Mr. S. AOKI (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your cooperation. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much and if there are no questions or comments on how we

would proceed in this respect, it is decided and it will be reflected in our report as we go along.

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.

And I would like to continue our consideration of this agenda item by first considering proposals for new agenda items.

Delegations may recall that on Friday last week when we opened this agenda item, there was a proposal for a new agenda item on "General Exchange of Information on Practices in Relation to Non-Legally Binding Instruments for Outer Space Activities".

The Secretariat distributed this proposal as document A/AC.105/C.2/L.291, a working paper submitted by Japan and co-sponsored by Austria, Canada, France, Nigeria and the United States of America.

I would now like to open the floor for comments and the first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of China.

Mr. L. ZHOU (China): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Chinese delegation always attaches great importance to the work of the Legal Subcommittee, striving to rationalize its work and make it efficient, along with all the other delegations. Non-legally binding instruments are now the main product, both in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee which have supplemented in hard treaty laws. Bearing that in mind, it is worthy to consider so-called softer laws in a general sense in a just, in a dynamic and action-oriented manner. In this regard, we commend the initiative made by the Japanese delegation and others.

At the same time, it is our belief that only in a clear and logical manner can good things be done. After careful consideration at several informal consultations with our Japanese colleagues and other interested delegates, we think this new proposal needs further elaboration, especially in the perspective of organizational matters including process and output. According to the CRP.22, which is also contained in the document A/AC.105/C.2/L.291, the major purpose of this new proposal as information gathering. In fact,

it is our view that information about United Nations softer laws has already been submitted to COPUOS and its Subcommittees under various related items such as item 9 and item 11 of the current agenda.

What remains to be done is just a compilation and re-organization. It seems to me there is no added value for doing this.

The non-legally binding instruments or softer law is an open-ended and dynamic concept which at least covers the existing resolutions, declarations, deliberations(?), and the gut lines developed under the auspices of the United Nations.

The purpose of these instruments varies and warrant different treatments. Some are industrial standards aimed at space sectors, some are best practices recommended for member States. At this stage, we have no idea how the information would be submitted and what would be done based on diverse and abundant information. Plus, we are not sure whether these instruments should be grouped together and reviewed accordingly.

Furthermore, it is noteworthy to consider whether the instruments produced by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee can be duly considered and reviewed by the Legal Subcommittee without the explicit consent of the COPUOS or Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, we do share the strong wish to revitalize this Subcommittee's work but only through a proper item and a well-organized working method can this be done.

We are in principle not against this idea but it is our view that this proposal needs in-depth analysis and careful consideration of several aspects such as what kind of information would be deemed relevant. What will be the end product of this three-year Work Plan? Who will compile the reference materials? How to avoid duplication of work and how to engage NGOs and private sectors in the process.

Having said that, we are not ready to support its inclusion in the agenda of the next session of the Legal Subcommittee. We are pleased to work with all interested delegations to finalize this proposal through intersessional communication and during the next year's Legal Subcommittee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Are there any other delegations?

Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of Japan.

Ms. S. AOKI (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I have made the statement on Friday last week on the proposal for a new agenda item “General Exchange of Information on Practices in Relation to Non-Legally Binding United Nations Instruments for Outer Space Activities”, after taking note of inputs and feedbacks from various delegations. Our proposal is now distributed as A/AC.105/C.2/L.291 to all of the delegations in all official languages this morning. We would like to make a note that a suggestion was made after the document was put into process into all official languages but a change to add “United Nations” in between “Binding” and “Instrument” is incorporated into the document. I would like to appreciate all of the delegations for their support and contributions to our proposal.

Let me take this opportunity for further describe the purpose of our proposed agenda item. The main intention of our proposal is to exchange information on Principles and related resolution adopted by the General Assembly and other documents contained in the booklet “United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space: Related General Assembly Resolutions and Other Documents”, ST/SPACE/61.

We understand that the applications and status of the United Nations on outer space have been considered thus far under the existing agenda item. However, it is the first time that consideration would be extended to works other than the United Nations treaties on outer space.

We are of the view that the considerations of domestic operations of existing non-legally binding documents related to outer space do not overlap with discussions at the existing agenda items at both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, and we would like to clarify that we are not intending to change any of the existing guidelines or framework.

Our aim is how specific provisions of principles and declarations are treated by each country. Perhaps some are incorporated into domestic legislation, in the form of a Decree, Ordinance, others

are existing as space agencies’ or enterprises’ regulations or just on a practice basis.

For example, in Japan, JAXA formulated the JAXA Space Debris Mitigation Standard as an internal regulation applicable to all satellites launched by JAXA. This Standard is just an internal standard and, of course, non-legally binding, but it serves as a technical standard for space debris mitigation suitable with the United Nations Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

Furthermore, following the recommendation on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects, we are using the model registration form provided by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs website together with our national registration format. We request to the operators to fill both the Japanese and English format when they provide their information to the Government so that we can proceed suitable with the registration recommendation. This is an example of the information we would like to accumulate in this agenda item.

We assume that there are similar approaches in different member States and we have been relatively informed of the presence of such regulations through statements of member States. However, the content of such regulations remain vague.

The objective of the draft proposal is to collect such information and put together into an information package that member States can refer to.

One of the expected achievements of this agenda item would be to analyze what instruments and which principles are visibly put into practice at a domestic level than others.

We believe that the expected outcome, the information package, would be of help, particularly to those nations that will engage in space operations in the future. We also believe that all of the supportive messages from the member States expressed in the floor represent the necessity and benefit of having such kind of information at this stage. We appreciate your support and reaffirm the value of this work.

As to the Working Plan, the first year member States are invited to provide information prior to the session in accordance with the questionnaire issued through the Secretariat.

In the second year, based on the information provided, a decision would be made as to whether a

Working Group would be established to analyze the way and manner non-legally binding instruments are put into practice.

We thank you very much for your continuous support.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Japan for her comments in the statement and now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

Mr. B. ISRAEL (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to once again thank the delegation of Japan for their proposal and particularly for the tremendous work they have invested in trying to add a valuable new plan of work to the work of the Legal Subcommittee and also for the inclusive process of consultations they have carried out in relation to this proposal.

The United States is happy to co-sponsor the proposal because we see value in better informing ourselves as a Subcommittee about the practical effects of the legally non-binding instruments, the United Nations instruments on space, particularly as we think about how best to address the many challenges in the use and exploration of outer space and what kind of mechanisms we want to base and structure our cooperation. So we see value in that concept and hope that we, as a Legal Subcommittee, at some point can carry out this work.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. D. LEMETAYER (France) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Chairman, distinguished delegates, colleagues, France is fully supporting the proposal of the Japanese delegation by co-sponsoring the introduction of this new item of the agenda. This is an interesting hitherto, unexplored item which allows us to broach indeed the issue of recommendations, declarations and relevant guidelines of the United Nations. This new agenda item would allow this Subcommittee to explore more how these various texts impact on national practice. So we believe that this is something which will enable the impact of non-binding United Nations-developed text on national and international practice.

This new item, as per its scope of application, would not overlap with other agenda items and, as the Japanese delegation says, this will certainly lead to the expected results, the development of information that will be very valuable for all member States.

Thank you.

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

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Iran.

Mr. H. SHAFTI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to express my delegation's point of view regarding the proposal on the new agenda item raised by the distinguished Japanese delegation in order to enrich the work of this Subcommittee.

In fact, we studied this proposal and appreciate the initiation in general but there are some elements in the proposal which are not clear for us. In this connection, we believe that there is a need for more elaboration to get a comprehensive understanding and image which explains the different aspects of the proposal including the possible methods of work, concrete targets and the expected results of the proposal for the Legal Subcommittee.

Therefore, this proposal could be reconsidered in the next stages.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Iran for his statement and give the floor to the distinguished representative of Canada.

Ms. D. ST.-ARNAUD (Canada) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you. I just wanted to support Japan's proposal. We see very plainly the advantages offered by exchange of information and this is about non-binding instruments but it is very important for us to gain knowledge as to ways countries address these issues in their domestic legislation. So we hope to see a follow-up.

Thank you.

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

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Austria.

Mr. P. BITTNER (Austria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Austria would like to thank again as a co-sponsor of this proposal the delegation of Japan for their proposal as I want to repeat that it is a very important subject they brought to our attention. At the same, and I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of China, for its considerations. We think that he raised some valid points we need to talk about and we also need to take into consideration.

I think there are some answers already in the text of CRP.22 which, of course, can be further elaborated if needed. From our perspective and I may highlight also that we gave some consideration to the issue of possible duplication or a relationship to other agenda items and we do not really see a duplication. We see a wide field for this new agenda item and that it presents an added value to what we have done so far in this Legal Subcommittee.

I would also like to point out that we have still one and half days left where we can discuss substantially on this proposal so I would be hesitant at this point in time to push these considerations and deliberations to the intersessional period. I think all the experts are here present in this room to work substantially on this proposal and I think we should try to finalize as much as we can here a text, a proposal, that we can then put forward to our capitals. So I think we should use the time that is available in this Legal Subcommittee this year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Austria for his statement and should give the floor to the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

Mr. A. R. MOMOH (Nigeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We want to reiterate the Nigeria position that we are happy to be a co-sponsor of this new agenda item. We see it as an opportunity that will give us information on other new space-faring nations, information on how the United Nations Guidelines and Principles find their ways to the national legislation of other countries. They will go a long way to assist us on how to implement or draft these United Nations Principles or Guidelines into our national legislations.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria for his statement and give the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico.

Ms. R. M. RAMÍREZ DE ARELLANO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We agree with what was said by the United States, Canada and France but also we understand with what was expressed by the distinguished delegates of Austria and China. We really need to take advantage of the time remaining to make greater headway, for example, with regard to paragraph 6(a) where we mention inviting member States, and we are talking about maybe 90 United Nations member States. This is something where we can move forward and also the delegate of Japan formulated a good question. How do we focus on information related to non-binding instruments?

We have before us the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, its previous sessions in previous years, and we know that in the past we focused on specific issues aligned with the existing United Nations treaties on outer space. Now, if we have to focus on non-binding instruments and documents, such as, for example, the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and so forth, this is a slightly different context for discussion.

Another thing I wanted to mention. We are talking about voluntary sharing of information. There is no mandatory obligation to do so. However, the idea is to make it customary, make it a matter of routine, a matter of course to exchange this type of information which we are lacking at the moment.

So I wanted to suggest, Mr. Chairman, maybe formulating some of the questions highlighted by China and by Austria and revise the document in the remaining time and in the day and a half we will still have so that we have a well-formulated agenda item.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Mexico for her constructive statement and now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Chile.

Ms. T. ALVAREZ (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman. Very briefly, I just wanted to reiterate that my delegation welcomes Japan's proposal and fully supports it. It is a very interesting proposal and it could help us re-orient the work of the Legal Subcommittee towards exchange of information that will be very useful to member States.

I also wanted to join the Austrian delegate when he said that we do have sufficient time during

this current session of the Legal Subcommittee to try and develop the issue further. I do not think it would be necessary to shift it to the intersessional period or defer it until next year. It is something that we can prepare by the next session.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Chile for her statement and should now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. M. A. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Mr. Chair, we have listened to various points of view on this issue on this new agenda item and we go along with China and Austria comments because developing countries have mostly become a player in this field and we are not so far able to be informed of all non-binding instruments and other declarations or principles and how to deal with them. Therefore, we need to benefit from the remaining time for this session and to actively discuss it in order to benefit from the issue without having to go into the intersessional period.

Thank you.

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

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement on this item, Proposals for New Agenda Items, and the exchange of views that has taken place so far?

Distinguished delegates, I see the distinguished representative of Japan has asked for the floor.

Ms. S. AOKI (Japan): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. We would like to thank the distinguished delegates for their comments and the issues raised and we think that this is a meaningful agenda item that it should be adopted for that we can initiate the concrete discussions of the concrete method of work and to actually move forward for collecting information. So as many delegations have suggested, we would like to make the most of the remaining days of the current session to continue to consult for clarifying the points that have been made by some delegations.

I thank you very much again.

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

Distinguished delegates, if you will bear with us as we try to utilize in the most efficient manner the resources available to us in order to address the issues that have been raised constructively.

Distinguished delegates, thank you very much for your patience and I should inform you, based on the various statements and interventions which have been made under this agenda item, Proposals to the Committee on New Items for Consideration by the Subcommittee, and, in particular, the proposal from Japan, co-sponsored by other countries, Austria, Canada, France, Nigeria and the United States of America, entitled "General Exchange of Information on Practices in Relation to Non-Legally Binding Instruments for Outer Space Activities". The Japanese delegation and the co-sponsors will consult with other interested delegations and report back to the Subcommittee tomorrow morning.

In the meantime, distinguished delegates, I propose we continue with our work. We will come back to this item 13 and in particular the proposal that we have been discussing for a new agenda item in the morning tomorrow following informal consultations.

Proposed agenda for the next session of the Legal Subcommittee

I would now like to turn to our proposed agenda for the next session in the meantime and the classification of items is as follows:

Regular items, under which we have: general exchange of views; information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law; status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space; matters relating to (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space, and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union; followed by national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space; then capacity-building in space law.

Distinguished delegates, if you will allow me, I shall take this opportunity to propose that this item, Capacity-Building in Space Law, which we have heard as a single issue item for discussion, instead we have it from subsequent sessions of the Subcommittee as a

regular item instead of a single issue or item for discussion.

So if I can repeat myself, I propose that the current item on our agenda, Capacity-Building in Space Law, which we discuss as a single issue/item on an annual basis be placed on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee as a regular item so it would be like all of the five items I have just referred to that precede it, from the general exchange of views through national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

On the single issues or items for discussion, we will have: review and possible revision of the Principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space; general exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. And with respect to the item, examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets, I propose we discontinue this item and have UNIDROIT, the Organization, to report under the item that we currently have on our agenda which is item 5, Information on Activities of International Intergovernmental Organizations.

Finally, we will have items under Work Plans including review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, followed by proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session.

I now open the floor for any comments on the proposed agenda for next year.

To be clear, having read out what the agenda for the fifty-third session would look like and taking into account the pending informal consultations regarding a proposal for a new agenda item which is contained in document L.291 and for which there will be further consultations and in respect of which a report will be given to us tomorrow morning.

Are there any further comments on this description that I have just provided?

Distinguished delegates, very well then, as we have now concluded our discussion on the agenda for next year, there is one final question to be addressed.

The Secretariat has requested me to bring to your attention that it has become customary for us to record in our report the list of items that have been proposed for inclusion on the agenda but that did not receive consensus during the respective session. That list can be found in paragraph 189 of the report of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-first session in 2012, document A/AC.105/1003.

The two proposals made were: (a) regulation of the dissemination of Earth observation satellite images through the World Wide Web, proposed by Saudi Arabia; and (b) review of the legal aspects of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with a view to transforming the Guidelines into a set of Principles on Space Debris, to be elaborated by the Legal Subcommittee and adopted by the General Assembly, proposed by the Czech Republic.

I note that these proposals have not been put forward for consideration at this session but would, however, like to ask the sponsors of these proposals whether they wish to retain their proposals for possible discussion at subsequent sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. M. A. TARABZOUNI (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We support retaining these proposals for discussion. Today, the matter has indeed become more important than in the past. Today, we can obtain images from Google, three dimension images about your own home and this was used in perpetrating certain crimes in certain countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

I should now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Ms. M. SMUCLEROVA (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Czech Republic maintains that the fact that item 11 has been extended and newly introduced for this fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee in the title of "General Exchange of Information and Views on Legal Mechanisms Relating to Space Debris Mitigation Measures, Taking into Account the Work of the

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, it means that its original concentration on the national implementation measures is only one part of the current title. We believe that we can maintain the scope also for the next year because it will enable us to discuss other issues concerning the legal framework of the Space Debris Mitigation Measures beyond the national implementation. So we believe that the original idea of our working paper presented last year is incorporated in this extended item 11 title.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic and if I understand both interventions correctly, the two proposals, the delegations that have put these proposals forward would like to retain them.

Ms. M. SMUCLEROVA (Czech Republic): Can you please repeat it? I did not hear.

The CHAIRMAN: To summarize the interventions which have been made by yourself, the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic with respect to the proposal, Review of the Legal Aspects of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, With a View to Transforming the Guidelines into a Set of Principles on Space Debris, to be elaborated by the Legal Subcommittee and adopted by the General Assembly. The Czech Republic would like to retain this proposal for a new item in further sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

Ms. M. SMUCLEROVA (Czech Republic): We believe that this topic is included in the current item 11 so we do not maintain the position that it should be considered as a specific item for the next year.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic for that clarification and we will thus retain the proposal (a) regulation of the dissemination of Earth observation satellite images through the World Wide Web, proposed by Saudi Arabia.

Organizational matters

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

Are there any 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 our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee on New Items for Consideration by the Subcommittee tomorrow morning.

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 tomorrow morning.

We will meet promptly at 10.00 a.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee on New Items for Consideration by the Subcommittee.

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

Time permitting, 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.

Time permitting, we will then reconvene to conclude our consideration of agenda item 4, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, with a 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/TRP/L.1.

Time permitting, we will also conclude our consideration of agenda item 6(a), Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, with a 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.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4.50 p.m.