Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Script

Fifty-fifth session

655th Meeting
Wednesday, 13 June 2012, 1 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: : Mr. Yasushi Horikawa *(Japan)*

The meeting was called to order at 1.16 p.m..

The CHAIRMAN Good afternoon distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 655th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Distinguished delegates, I would first like to inform you of our programme of work for this afternoon. We will continue, and hopefully, conclude our consideration of agenda item 13, "Space and Climate Change", agenda item 15, "Future role of the Committee", agenda item 9, "Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session" and agenda item 16, "Other matters". We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 7, "Implementation of the recommendations of UNI SPACE III", agenda item 10, "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status", and agenda item 11, "Space and society". There are no technical presentations scheduled for this afternoon.

Expert group D on Regulatory Regimes and Guidance for Actors in the Space Arena of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities is meeting this afternoon until 6 p.m. in the meeting room MOE100.

This evening, delegations are cordially invited to the traditional Austrian Heurigen evening.

Are there any questions to this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I would also like to remind delegations that the Secretariat has distributed the Provisional List of Participants in conference room paper 2. Delegations are kindly requested to provide the Secretariat with written amendments to the Provisional List of Participants by close of business today, so that the Secretariat can finalize it.

Please note that this evening is the last opportunity to submit any changes to the Secretariat. The final list will be distributed during the course of tomorrow's session.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to re-open our consideration of agenda item 13, "Space and Climate Change" to hear two statements today.

The first statement is distinguished representative of Nigeria. You have the floor.

Ms. M. O. LAOSE (*Nigeria*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Nigerian delegates, I thank you very much for this opportunity to address the distinguish delegates of the fifty-fifth session of the Committee on the peaceful uses of Outer Space.

Nigeria congratulates the Government of Austria and Brazil and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for their efforts in organizing the official side event in Rio+20 on Space and Sustainable Development to support the implementation of the outcomes and action of the meeting.

The importance of space technology to climate change as it affects sustainable development and account for its impact on all human aspects cannot be over emphasized. Nigeria wishes that such programme would be sustained to create more awareness for space activity and UNISPACE III implementation.

Nigeria notes with satisfaction, the consolidations of the Space Applications Programme and the UN-SPIDER, the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs; Nigeria will continue to support the activities of UN-SPIDER and Space Applications through the Regional Support Office and the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Nigeria.

Nigeria is also committed to any international collaboration in the peaceful uses of outer space. NigeriSat-2 and NigeriaSat-X would continue to support the disaster monitoring constellations and also

provide data for resources and environmental management.

Mr. Chairman, my delegate hereby confirm the inclusion of the contributions of space technology to climate change in the drafted National Policy document on Climate Change, a policy that is currently going through parliamentary approval in Nigeria. The document highlights the areas of collaborations between the various stakeholders and also emphasizes the importance of space technology to climate change. The recently launched satellites, NigeriaSat-2 and NigeriaSat-X, would support researches and projects related to climate change, including vulnerability and adaptations to the consequences of climate change.

Distinguished delegates, Nigeria will continue to apply space technology to address the problems of climate change and related areas and also implement the outcomes of Rio+20 while contributing to efforts in this respect. In 2010, Nigeria completed its land use and land cover project; a fundamental baseline data for understanding climate change. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Pakistan. You have the floor.

Mr. A. H. SIRAJ (*Pakistan*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Pakistan lies in the region where effects of climate change are evident in the form of glacier retreat and surges. Other indicators of climate change are frequent extreme events and droughts in the country. Similarly, fog during winter has become a regular phenomenon in the South-Asian Subcontinent which starts from the eastern part of India and extending into Pakistan. Climate change study in Pakistan is mainly focused on the consequences of deforestation, desertification, land degradation, and loss of biodiversity through environmental monitoring and disaster management programmes. Use of satellites to monitor processes and trends at the regional scale is essential in the context of climate change. This requires continued observation and long-term monitoring of atmosphere, oceans, land surface for understanding climate change modelling.

Currently, studies are being carried out to determine the effect of climate change on glaciers in the northern parts of Pakistan, on which food security and — indeed life in the country — is so dependent. The programme is based on an improved weather and climate forecasting system and employs techniques like satellite meteorological applications and satellite- and GIS-based system developments. Pakistan has suffered hydro-meteorological disasters for three consecutive years. These were the drought in 2009-2010, a major flood in 2010, and a flood in the southern parts of Pakistan in 2011. Studies are being carried out related to River Runoff Modelling, Risk Mapping for high urban flood sites, Rainfall Spatial Pattern Analysis, Drought Forecasting, Impact Assessment and Directional Movements. I thank you Chairman.

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

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

I see none.

We have therefore concluded our consideration of agenda item 13, “Space and Climate Change”.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue, and hopefully conclude, our consideration of agenda item 15, “Future role of the Committee”.

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

Mr. F. MENICOCCI (*Argentina, interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman, as this is the first time that I am taking the floor at this meeting, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of COPUOS. Your experience and knowledge will be a great contribution to the progress of the work of the Committee. I would also like to make this extensive to the First Deputy Vice-Chairman, Mr. Filipe Duarte Santos and the Second Deputy Vice-Chair/Rapporteur, Mr. Wolansky.

My dear friend, Yasushi Horikawa, you and your team are assured of our support. I would also like to thank the outgoing Chair, Mr. Prunariu and his team, for their excellent work at previous meetings. We would also like to congratulate Madame Othman, Mr. Hillman and Mr. Doi for their efficient and professional work with the team that they have. Madame Director, our delegation is at your disposal.

Mr. Chair, the Republic of Argentina welcomes the document you introduced on the next phase in global governance for space research and utilization. We share your concepts, but today we are at a unique time in the history of the Committee and that is a great opportunity to consider its future activities and role, and we should therefore work harder, through specific steps, which will enable us to embark on a new era of international cooperation and harmonization.

We believe that the three ideas that you suggested to achieve the UN Declaration on the 50th anniversary of the first manned flight, out of COPUOS itself, are basic axes for our future work. We agree in promoting the work of the Committee and the Subcommittees as one unique international platform for international cooperation in space and the long-term sustainability of space.

COPUOS should have more active and committed participation from its member States. In recent years we have noted that different subjects of our — of COPUS — competence are being discussed outside and this weakens it. The subject of space instruments that were launched by a limited number of countries who agreed on the rules and standards and then ask others to join in the system without having participated in its creation. That avoids discussions in COPUOS. It means that decisions are not taken by consensus; there is no belief in the capacity of COPUOS to deal with these subjects. If COPUOS does not have an agenda to deal with current issues, then we cannot believe in our future. That is why Mr. Chairman, we support your idea of promoting COPUOS as a unique entity.

There is room for hope and we would like to congratulate its sponsors. It is a great achievement to see that the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Space Activities is now on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Committee and seeing the excellent work of its Chair, Dr. Peter Martinez, and the enthusiasm of other delegations, I am sure that we will be successful. For that reason and because this is a critical question for COPUOS, we should facilitate its discussion and provide as much assistance as possible to the working group. As chair of Scientific and Technical Committee, I have heard from several delegations who are concerned with participating in the Working Group on sustainability. However, the possibilities are reduced because those meetings took place in parallel to the subcommittee meetings and these people could not attend. The parallel meetings of the working group take place only in English, which hampers complete understanding for some non-English speaking delegations.

Mr. Chair, my country is aware of the importance of technical presentations for better understanding of progress made in science and technology, but given their proliferation, there almost 70 at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we are facing a dilemma. We need more time to discuss sustainability, with interpretation; we do not want to extend the sessions of the Subcommittee, and we would like to ask the Secretariat to make sure that we have the necessary resources for the Working Work on Sustainability and to reduce technical presentations or include them in the 1 o'clock to 3 o'clock time. The Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Space Activities deserves our interest and concentration.

Regarding item 17 of your document, we understand that more effective cooperation would be to the benefit of all of us but we do not understand it in the way that some countries do; that some only build payloads and others launchers. In our national programme, Argentina is working on all these aspects.

Mr. Chairman, your document deserves more detailed care and attention from us and we hope to do that soon. However, we wish to take this opportunity to say that in general terms, we share your aims and reassure that with this roadmap that you have proposed, COPUOS will be able to achieve the aims for which it was established. Thank you.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation. You have the floor.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (*Russian Federation, interpretation from Russian*) Thank you, Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, COPUOS has, for more than 50 years now remains a forum where international cooperation is celebrated. It, obviously, is capable of withstanding the test of time. Whatever the divergences of use that States may have on this or that matter, we have always been and remain partners together in working on very important matters and the decisive factor is the fact that we all wish to expand our work with more and more substance and thereby resolving occasionally very sensitive issues.

Yesterday we all were able to fully understand that the work in COPUOS indeed has very special atmosphere reigning and we should really value this. We should not become hostages to scenarios of

confrontation. In each and every actual situation we should take time out to assess things and then reach reasonable compromise in a pragmatic fashion.

Chairman, the consideration of issues having to do with the future role of the Committee is something, which at this session, is supported conceptually and practically by two very important documents for discussion. The first of these is on the way to the space policy of the United Nations organization, which was initially presented, Chairman, by your predecessor, Ambassador Ciro Arevalo Yepes and your own document, Sir, which presents your view as to what priority measures should be taken within the medium term. We would like to comment upon each and every one of these individually.

To characterize the document of Ambassador Yepes, I think it would be fully apposite to use the word inspired. It is a general thrust — it is something that we support. However, we do believe that it is necessary to sort out the theses and ideas in this document and put them into logical order and draw lines of distinction as to which could be taken up for work straight away, which should be taken up in the medium term, rather, and which in the backdrop of present day, circumstances availing, should be recognized as being sort of futuristic, actually, because they would necessitate radical breakthroughs in policies before they could fall into place. Indeed, we believe that it is necessary to consider the need to have coordinated strategic approach to outer space activity. It is necessary, indeed, to consider that the formation implementation by the UN of its own outer space policy and ensuring global management of space activities is already something which is substantively already achieved, even though that only applies to a restricted number of fields and within the constraints, of the ways and means available to us. However, indeed, in parting, the functions of a more pronounced international characteristic to this work is something which is an interesting theme to analyse for us.

I believe that the ideas for the development of rules of management for space traffic is something which is already in this document and which can already be developed. As concerns the issue of setting up a UN aegis international mechanism for space debris monitoring, this is something which is certainly going to be considered in Russia very, very carefully.

We cannot agree with the prognosis relating to what the document terms the probable loss on the part of present international legal acts of the relevance in context of expected changes. I believe that in this case we should really warn everybody that, if we ourselves in any way lower the value, or devalue our own present space law, those very self-made changes, which are certainly to be treasured might, will be precipitating those changes and prove self-fulfilling. I believe that we already today have examples of concepts which are border line, actually, for example concepts which would ensure the absolute supremacy of national security factors, that being placed as prerequisite for the peaceful use of outer space. I think that indeed we should contain and restraint this sort of change and evolution of approaches and bear in mind that any changing of slogans is wrought with consequences, indeed. COPUOS can and should without prejudice to any other forms and possibly even in cooperation with those forums, form the readiness of States to collectively and effectively agree about various criteria for the legitimate use of outer space for purposes of national and international security which would be based on the principle of the non-use of force, or threat of force, and which would fit into the concept of the exclusively peaceful use of outer space and within the concepts of a new architecture for security in outer space.

Chairman, the problem of a cautious approach — a careful approach — with regard to principles and norms of international outer space law, has yet another side to it. On the upside of COPUOS, for example, we already have fine examples of what we could term to be new readings of the basic agreements of outer space. What we could call very responsible approaches to their interpretation and implementation. Here we have in mind the achieved agreements with regard to the concept of the launching State and recommendations having to do with matters relating to the registration of spacecraft. But at the same time, I think that we should not jump into any basic changes with regard to the concepts of the 1967 outer space treaty, which for example, ensure that the study and use of outer space shall be the province of all mankind. We should not extrapolate the derivative concepts such as global commons, heritage, or the common good and assign them to specific parts of outer space. If we were to justify this sort of new conceptualization, than probably, colleagues, we would also have to also accept all sorts of novelties. For example, those within the draft code of conduct in outer space, where it says, for example, that the use of outer space, inter alia, for purposes of national security, shall take place without hindrance. We, for example, indeed, cannot really accept such new renditions and readings of principles stipulating that outer space shall be free for explorational use, easily we believe this ambivalent — to say the least. Especially since the implicit revisions of principles pursued for various purposes, but the results will be one and that would be the devaluing of

the values and the meaning of certain international legal imperatives and this will disorient and force us to adapt a perception of what constitutes the legal possibilities to changes. The problems, indeed, which may have negative consequences for the work of the Committee are indeed so many, that there are so many clichés, for example, and these are so capacious in their potential volumes of meaning that neat interpretations can even not be ensured. Some translations are so creative, indeed, that there are substantial differences in the Russian and English versions, for example. It is clear, for example, that if we are to compare the way the global space context is rendered, that certainly cannot be considered as being the same as (*Russian spoken*), which is "world cosmonautics" and for example, space affairs in English and (*Russian spoken*) space activities cannot be considered as being — meaning — the same thing. This is a problem which crops up time and time again in the practice of COPUOS and we should be very careful in considering this, both from the delegation side as well as from the Secretariat side.

Chairman, of course, what remains important for the Committee is enhancing the capability of all States, specially developing countries, to make use and practical and implement outer space science and technology for sustainable development purposes. We have to define those elements forming the system of interaction for our dealings with space technology production. It is necessary for us to, indeed, put into effect the will to ensure equitable advantages and to form the institutional basis for our work. I believe that this latter aspect should be focused on properly within Expert Working group D on Long-term Sustainability. We would suggest that colleagues in that group should carefully analyse the Russian/Ukrainian working document, reference A/AC.105/C.1/L/322. The key idea of that is that it is necessary to enhance, through joint State efforts, the potential export and importers who have national end user status, in order to ensure transition to qualitatively new degrees of cooperation development. We have developed a draft of principles on this and certainly we are going to disseminating these on due time to the S. and T. Subcommittee.

Chair, we consider the target points that you have presented to us as perfectly well-thought out and relevant, indeed in a medium term perspective, our priorities are going to be long-term sustainability of outer space activity. In this regard, we believe that the proper points of emphasis have been placed by you and your work. However, we would like to be perfectly sincere with you: we do find it somewhat disappointing that in the programme of action there was no a proper place for issues having to do with maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. We believe that this minor omission will be made up for within our joint fruitful activity to that end. Chairman, thank you very much for your attention.

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

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item at this time? I see none.

I see none.

Distinguished delegates, you will recall that this agenda item is a single issue or item for discussion, and it was agreed last year that the item should be continued for one year only. We should therefore take a decision as to the continuation of our considerations at our next session in 2013.

If I hear no objections, do I take it that the Committee agrees to continue its consideration of this item at its fifty-sixth session, in 2013, for one year only? Are there any comments?

I see none. It is so decided.

We have therefore concluded our consideration of agenda item 15, "Future role of the Committee".

I recognize the distinguished representative of Brazil. You have the floor.

Mr. F. FLORES PINTO (*Brazil*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want to apologize — my delegation had some meeting out of the VIC and we were planning to make a statement on agenda item 15, so if you could allow us to still keep the item open, we would really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN Would you make the statement now or later?

Now?

I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Brazil. You have the floor.

Mr. F. FLORES PINTO (*Brazil*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Once more, my delegation would like to thank you for allowing us to take the floor in order to express our views on agenda item 15.

Mr. Chairman, now that we approach the point we have almost exhausted most agenda items for this session of the Committee through constructive deliberations, time has come for Member States here represented to express what are their aspirations regarding the future role of COPUOS. Along its fifty-one years, the Committee was instrumental in writing some of the most important chapters of the history of the United Nations. It was certainly one of the major venues where the drama of the Cold War was staged. Now, it is upon us to decide what role we want the Committee to play in the formulation of our common future in space.

The nature of global society in the 21st century, interconnected through satellite communication networks and oriented by navigation systems has been shaped by the peaceful use of outer space, what means that whatever we decide in the framework of this Committee will have sensible impact on the future life of our peoples.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation wants to congratulate you for the elaboration of document A/AC.105/2012/CRP.4, entitled "Next Phase in Global Governance for Space Research and Utilization", as well as your predecessor, the Chairman of COPUOS for 2008-2009, Ambassador Ciro Arevalo Yepes, for his contribution translated into document A/AC.105/L.258, "Towards a United Nations space policy". These two documents come to light in a very timely occasion and compel us to the necessary reflection on the future of space.

I allow myself to quote Ambassador Arevalo's document:

> "In order for the United Nations to play its necessary role in the space arena, it will need to be supported by a space policy (...) It is time to set clear directions. Space can contribute to the cohesion and identity of the United Nations and its stakeholders. A United Nations policy is increasingly necessary to depart from the current ad hoc modus operandi."

In order to overcome this "current ad hoc modus operandi" this circumstance of instability, unpredictability, improvisation and confusion, some elements are required: measures to ensure adherence to legal principles, equality before the law, accountability, fairness, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency.

That, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, is what is called "the rule of law".

Mr. Chairman, rule of law at the international level is the very foundation of the Charter of the United Nations. In pursuit of this ideal, the UN aims at establishing conditions under which justice and obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law are respected.

This cross-cutting issue that extends to all legal domains that the United Nations has under its jurisdiction. Since its 62 period of sessions, the General Assembly has included in its agenda the item denominated "The rule of law at the national and international level", currently item number 83 on the agenda of 66 period of sessions.

In this sense, I would like to quote resolutions 66/102 and 65/32: operative paragraph 2: "Reaffirms the role of the General Assembly in encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification, and reaffirms further that States shall abide by all their obligations under international law; operational paragraph 3: "Reaffirms also the imperative of upholding and promoting the rule of law at the international level, in accordance with the principles of the Charter. Operative paragraph 7: "Calls upon the United Nations system to systematically address, as appropriate, aspects of the rule of law in relevant activities (...) recognizing the importance of the rule of law to virtually all areas of United Nations engagement."

Mr. Chairman, Brazil is concerned with initiatives capable of undermining international law and the multilateral system in force, through the adoption of informal mechanisms, instruments and regimes, outside of the United Nations framework. Brazil is committed since long time with strengthening the role and improving performance of COPUOS and its two Subcommittees. COPUOS is the legitimate organism to carry out the international space law-making process.

Under this perspective, it is not an understatement to say that the future legitimacy and effectiveness of COPUOS will be directly linked to the strengthening of the Legal Subcommittee. This would be fundamental for reaching transparency, safety, security, and predictability in relation to all space activities. The importance of the Legal Subcommittee becomes even more evident when we take into consideration that we just witnessed few weeks the first successful private commercial spacecraft to engage with the International Space Station. This is just the initial step of large-scale commercial exploration undertaken by non-state entities and, eventually, several connected legal matters will arise,

inter alia, delimitation of outer space, nature and extension of space insurance and finance, private liabilities. We will ignore the needs of regulation at our own peril.

Mr. Chairman, today, space has irreversibly become a part of the modem essential material social domain — the ensemble of public goods and public services required for a dignified human life and for the realization of economic and social basic rights. Law and order, healthcare, education and logistics become more and more dependent on space-reliant applications. We may not be very far to a point in future when governments will no longer be able to provide public services without some considerable degree of space activity, turning, therefore, space faring into a moral and political imperative. This will greatly impact debates on both arenas — space and human rights — with relevant consequences for us all.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation has spoken enough on the rule of law in space, what brings me to two of the main ideas contained in your paper: (1) to promote the role of the Committee and its Subcommittees as a unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space research and long-term space utilization; and (2) to promote greater dialogue between the Committee and regional and inter-regional cooperation mechanisms in space activities for the benefit of global development. The underlying foundation of these two ideas is certainly the imperative of democratic governance in space, which, by itself, is intertwined with the rule of law in space.

A stable order in orbit and a supportive environment for new space users and space faring nations can only be achieved by a legitimate order, then ensure a fair and equitable access of space to all nations and an equitable share of burdens and benefits. Even long-term sustainability, with all the technical aspects it involves, depends ultimately on the democratic legitimacy of the established order in space.

Mr. Chairman, the utilization of space for the benefit of all humankind leads to positive and obvious effects on the industrial sustainable development of nations. Space can play a key enhanced role in assisting developing countries in improving their capabilities for using their natural resources, optimizing their infrastructure and land use, and implementing more effective governance. Countries can only benefit by incorporating the dimension of space into their industrial, technology, innovation and environment policies.

In this particular view, my delegation would suggest to the Committee to explore ways to cooperate in the future with other UN bodies, such as the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Commission of Science and Technology for Development of the ECOSOC and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in order to find out how the transfer of space technology can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and future development targets that may result from political commitments undertaken by Member States on the conclusion of Rio+20.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would call the attention of the Committee to the latest developments going on the field of the Law of the Sea, the eldest brother of the Space Law. There is widespread and reasonable expectation that an important Member State will finally ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), whose thirtieth anniversary we celebrate this year.

This ratification would be a watershed moment for International Law, and its political signification will create extremely positive momentum regarding the general attitude of nations towards legally binding international norms and make an invaluable contribution to the international rule of law.

Mr. Chairman, more than twenty years from the end of the Cold War, there are still inertia and tangible echoes of those times in the works of this Committee. The constitutional order on space, encapsulated in the five UN treaties on outer space and subsidiary sources of space rules and guidelines, refers to a bygone age of world where competition and distrust prevailed. Time is long overdue for Member States to engage in good faith efforts oriented to the renovation of space law order, updating legal instruments and adapting them to new realities.

We are approaching the closure of a cycle initiated with UNISPACE III, in 1999, and we, the United Nations, were undoubtedly successful in our endeavour.

Since we have practically completed the implementation of almost all of the Conference recommendations, my delegation believes that we should start the consideration of celebrating UNISPACE IV at some point in the near future. The new multilateral framework that will eventually emerge from Rio+20 will create even more favourable

conditions for such an initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Brazil for his statement. Are there any other delegates wishing to speak at this time?

I see none. We will continue this agenda item next year for one year only.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 9, "Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session", that we have suspended pending discussions on the possible General Assembly resolution on national space legislation.

I have been informed that the Chair of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria, held several informal consultations on this matter.

With your permission, I now give the floor to the Chair of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria to address the Committee on this issue. Ms. Marboe, you have the floor.

Ms. I. MARBOE (*Austria*) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate very much the opportunity I've had here to have informal consultations on the text on the recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space at the margins of these sessions and also even in this plenary room. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Unfortunately, it has, until now, not been possible to finalize the last version of the text because, apparently, with the translation of the text, has shown several difficulties of terms, which we are still trying to align with the English version of the document, without changing the meaning and the contents of the document. We hope that we will still have some time to continue the informal consultations this afternoon and have an understanding on the text by this evening, so that the changes can then be incorporated in the document — in the English version of the document — which can then be circulated, with the help of the Secretariat, tomorrow so that delegations have the opportunity to read through and to see the proposed changes, so that we the possibility to agree on them on Friday. If we can reopen this agenda item on Friday, I would be very grateful. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN I thank Ms. Marboe for your statement.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this time?

I see none. We will proceed accordingly.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 16, "Other matters", by continuing this afternoon our consideration of the following sub-items:

1. Strategic Framework of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for biennium 2014-2015; and

2. Membership of the Committee.

The proposed strategic framework for the programme "Peaceful uses of outer space", contained in document A/67/6 (Prog.5), was made available to delegations through Conference Room Paper 15.

Are there any delegations wishing to take the floor on the proposed Strategic Framework for the programme "Peaceful uses of outer space 2014-2015", as contained in document A/67/6 (Prog.5)?

Is there any delegation wishing to speak on this?

Since there are no delegations wishing to take the floor on this matter, may I take it that the Committee agrees on the proposed strategic framework for the programme as contained in document A/67/6 (Prog.5).

It is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed with our consideration of the membership of the Committee.

It is clear to me that, presently, there is no consensus on recommending to the General Assembly the admission of Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan as members of the Committee.

I also understand that informal consultations among delegations are ongoing and I therefore suggest that we come back tomorrow on the question of membership with a view to making a decision.

Yes, I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan. You have the floor.

Mr. A. HAJIZADA (*Azerbaijan*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, as my delegation previously noted that we are against to looking at this item at the application of 3 member countries as a joint — as a package deal — and we should immediately go to the decision of two applications, namely Costa Rica and Jordan, and I kindly ask you, please, to clarify what is the subject of the consultations and which delegations are engaged in these consultations. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN are there any delegations wishing to speak at this time on this matter. I recognize the distinguished representative of the United States. You have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (*United States of America*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation; we fully agree with your proposal that we probably should return to this question tomorrow. We believe that the 3 candidatures or nominations should be taken up at the same time for a variety of reasons. We still believe that we should reach consensus at this session on the 3 nominations and, if we cannot reach consensus at this session, than we ought to consider a way forward, because as my delegation and many, many others have pointed out, the Committee is a specialized Committee dealing with technical and legal affairs and that the bilateral issues that member States might have should be taken up in different forums. Our work should be impeded because of that, and we also want to maintain what has been a smooth operating procedure in terms of reaching consensus on membership requests.

Mr. Chairman, for now, let us continue our consultations and return to this matter tomorrow. Thank you.

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

I notice the distinguished representative of Jordan. You have the floor.

Mr. I. ALBADDAWI (*Jordan*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. At the outset I would like to express thanks to all member States and the heads of delegations in joining us in supporting these candidatures and we hope that we will reach a consensus on the applications of these nominations. As far as our application, we have met all the requirements of candidature and we have commanded a consensus by all States.

In that respect, I would like to ask the Secretariat a procedural question. When an application is considered on its own or considered in conjunction with other applications. Do we do that separately or do we do that collectively. The other question is, if this situation that gives us concern should continue, what is the procedure that we would take in that respect? Finally, once again, I would like to thank all States which have supported us and we hope that we will reach a consensus on the 3 applications. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Jordan — before I ask the Secretariat, I will take the request from Costa Rica.

Distinguished representative of Costa Rica, you have the floor.

Ms. A. T. DENGO BENAVIDES (*Costa Rica*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

First of all, since this is the first time I take the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your election and all the members of the Board.

Mr. Chairman, as one of the affected countries in this case, I would like call on all the members of the COPUOS to apply the spirit of Vienna and to try to reach consensus as much as possible. My country — my delegation — is completely open to suspend the discussions today and try and see if we can come to a happy conclusion by tomorrow. Thank you very much.

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

May I ask the Secretariat to clarify procedure. I will give the floor to Niklas Hedman.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (*Secretariat*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, when it comes to an application of a State for membership in the Committee and that — as all delegations are aware — since the beginning of the Committee, it is a limited Committee — a limited membership Committee — it started with only a handful and now it has grown to 71 member States. So we have a set of practices that have been changed — changing one direction, changing back in another direction — during these 50 years of existence of this Committee. Today there are no concrete rules. There are no rules and regulations of this Committee

whether applications are considered separately or whether they are being considered as a group regarding how many applications there are at hand for one given session.

As I stated earlier, in our earlier discussions on this matter, it has been 10 years ago — and even 15 years ago, and even longer — there was a concern of the Committee that the Committee should not grow too fast and delegations that had been members for many years will recall the debates that the Committee had in those years. It was a very strong call from member States of the Committee that any member, any new coming member application from member States of the United Nations, wishing to become full member of this Committee, should be drawn up in the view of geographical distribution among the world.

There is no concrete rule at date and we are in the hands of the member States of the Committee in this regard. Delegations will have to decide how they want to proceed with this matter and how they wish to settle this particular situation we are in at this moment. This is why the Chair has asked for delegations to continue consulting and that we would come back tomorrow and see where we stand. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank Mr. Niklas Hedman for your clarification.

I noticed the distinguished representative of Egypt. You have the floor.

Mr. M. HELMY (*Egypt*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I also want to congratulate you on this position since this is the first time I speak in this gathering. I do not have a comment per se, I just have a question for the Secretariat here: on the notion of taking the candidature as a package, has there been any historical instance where COPUOS has taken candidatures in a package or are we creating a precedence here by doing so? Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN please give us a moment.

I thank you for your patience.

Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat, Mr. Niklas Hedman, you have the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (*Secretariat*) Thank you again Mr. Chairman, and I am sorry for the time that we had to spend on some consultations here at the podium. As I stated in my previous reply that the principle of geographical distribution — geographical representation — has been very important and apparent in this Committee. Now, in 1994, the Committee started applying a system of rotation so among countries that belong to the same group, there was a rotation scheme that they had a membership for a certain period and then would rotate with another country. That principle was ceased in 2001, so we are not applying that any longer. As I said in my previous statement, in reply to the previous question, that it was for many years a concern of the growth of the Committee, but for — I would say — for now 10 years, we have not had any debate on such matter as a concern of the growth of the Committee, so there has not been any statements to that effect in recent time.

Now, as I also stated, there are no definitive rules of this Committee on how to treat applications. The only rule, I would say, is that member States of the United Nations, that are not members of the Committee, have the right to apply for membership of this limited Committee. So, I repeat, there is no rule on how to treat applications.

Applications are being basically being considered individually. A State applies for membership and it is then considered. Now, what we have heard during these days is some delegations express the view that these 3 applications that we have before us should be dealt with together and that we should reach a consensus on all 3. Some other States have expressed the view that those 3 applications should be seen individually and there should not be a grouping, or they should not be brought up together. So, distinguished delegates, this is now a matter of policy among member States of the Committee on how, distinguished delegates here in the room, wish to proceed in this matter.

This is where we also, and the Chair said, we see that there is no consensus on how to deal with this and the endeavour to reach a consensus by the end of the session. That is why the Chair has asked for continued consultations and it is an understanding that there are discussions and consultations going on, how to deal with this matter. We have to reach an agreement in one way or the other on how to treat this. But, I repeat, there are no rules on grouping individual applications together. This is now a policy matter among delegations to decide upon. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat. I would like to have consensus as much as possible.

Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of Egypt. You have the floor.

Mr. M. HELMY (*Egypt*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and sorry to take the floor again. Do I understand from the Secretariat's response that there is no historical precedence in grouping countries' candidatures together and presenting them to COPUOS for the approval, eventually, in the General Assembly, am I correct on what I just said or not?

The CHAIRMAN Next speaker, I notice, the distinguished representative of Mexico. You have the floor.

Mr. S. CAMACHO (*Mexico, interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Chairman.

Well, in the spirit of contributing to clarifying the situation, my delegation would like to recall that there is a precedent. In the past, if delegations check our files, there was an ad hoc committee with 18 members, which was then set up the Committee with 24 members. From there it went to 32 and at that time, what was taken into account was maintaining a geopolitical balance. So, the number of delegations that came on board had to be considered as a package in order to strike the balance between the different blocks.

I agree with the Secretariat that there are no set rules to follow, but I do think that this is a useful suggestion because in the past we did consider the number of candidates to members of the Committee as a package. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative Mexico for his intervention.

I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Austria. You have the floor.

Mr. W. LICHEM (*Austria*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I would like to recall here the basic culture and value structure on which cooperation in outer space is based. From the very beginning, it was a culture of bridge-building. It was a culture, not of exclusion, but of inclusion, and I think we owe the successes, results and the basic contribution of this Committee to addressing our global agenda, "security and development", that we have included and not excluded. And in this spirit, I would like to remind us and call upon us, that in this spirit we address the issue that is right now before us. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative Austria for his statement.

Now I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of United States of America. You have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (*United States*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make one comment. The Secretariat has been asked on several occasions on what the precedent is and I think it is clear that there has been practice in the past concerning how we handle membership questions, and a lot of times it has to do with trying to accommodate those member States of the UN that wish to become members of the Committee.

In the past, if we have multiple member States seeking membership in the Committee, that has been taken up as a package within COPUOS, and there have been times where further discussions were needed on the specific nominations — yeah, further discussions were needed and COPUOS could not reach a final recommendation on all of the member States that had requested membership and therefore the discussions carried on into the General Assembly where a decision was made.

What would be unprecedented is if this Committee took a step that sought to exclude a member State from becoming a member of the Committee. That is to say, if we were only to pick a couple of States that we said are fine and then not reach consensus on the third State. So, if we are talking about precedent and practice, what we are dealing with today is unprecedented in the way it is being handled and in our inability to come up with consensus language that would allow us to solve the problem either here or at the General Assembly. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the United States.

Now I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Russia. You have the floor.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (*Russian Federation, interpretation from Russian*) Thank you Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the situation regarding membership in the Committee, unfortunately, is not something that is lending itself to resolution. In this connection, all of us are feeling embarrassed. I, for example — would say quite frankly — I feel extremely embarrassed, because both of the distinguished colleagues in question represent sovereign States, which 20 years ago were part of my homeland, the USSR, and we all know that, with regard to these two States — not everything is rosy — there are problems, but I would like to call upon both the distinguished of Azerbaijan as well as

the distinguished delegate of Armenia, to follow and emulate the presidents of these two States, who they indeed do commit themselves to trilateral discussions with the participation of the president of Russia after all.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are members of the CIS and thus in any case do cooperate. So, I would call upon the colleagues — appeal to them to adopt a reasonable decision which would be based on the purposes of furthering the goals of COPUOS and my colleagues have spoken to that quite clearly yesterday. Thank you.

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

Now I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Egypt. You have the floor.

Mr. M. HELMY (*Egypt*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman again and sorry for keeping on taking the floor.

Thanks to my colleagues here that reminded everybody present that there was precedence on the issue itself. Also, the reason I ask on the issue on precedence was not on whether there was an ad hoc committee comprising of 15-28 members as my Chilean colleague just mentioned, with geographical distribution and then it was taken as a recommendation to the GA. No, the reason I ask this was, is there a precedent whereby a package of candidates was taken to the GA prohibiting individual candidature to be taken to the GA — if I am clear on that issue — by this I mean, are we here trying to create a precedence whereby a group of countries' candidatures taken to the GA, prohibiting the fact that there is a right for individual candidatures to be taken to the GA based on the recommendation of COPUOS.

I have another question, if I may. You mentioned the issue of consensus, Mr. Chairman. That we are here in the spirit Vienna, as everybody just mentioned — to reach consensus — are we trying to reach consensus on individual candidatures or are we trying to reach consensus on the procedure per say — whether to take it as a package or as individual, because they are two completely separate and different issues. I just need clarity on this, if I may. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt for your question.

Before I ask to the Secretariat, I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Venezuela. You have the floor.

Mr. R. BECERA (*Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Chairman. My delegation would like to make a final call for the peaceful coexistence of all States. COPUOS is a scenario of peace for peace. The essential value of COPUOS is that, despite our differences, we can all sit down together in the same place to work towards a single goal: a better world; a world in peace. Let us not make this a place of confrontation and an escalation of hatred.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation hopes that COPUOS will be mature enough to deal with these issues itself. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for his statement.

Now I noticed the distinguished representative of Pakistan. Distinguished representative of Pakistan, you have the floor.

Mr. A. H. SIRAJ (*Pakistan*) Thank you Chair. Just a question regarding the procedure again and almost the same in line with the respected Egyptian delegation.

If we are considering the question of whether the case of the 3 applicants has to be considered in package or separately, would it imply that a decision to this effect will have to be taken on the basis on consensus, again?

Secondly, if there is no consensus on the proposal of whether the 3 applicants have to be considered as a package or not, then would it automatically imply that the case of the 3 countries has to be taken individually? Thank you Chair.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan for your question.

Thank you for waiting.

Now I will give the floor to the Secretariat, Mr. Niklas Hedman. You have the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (*Secretariat*) thank you Mr. Chairman. I will make reference to a couple of documents to sort out the precedence in this matter. Of

course, it now concerns current members of the Committee, so they will recall the history also of their own cases.

In 2002, there was an application by Algeria and an application by Libya, at that time Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Committee, in 2002, and I am referring to document A/57/20 and delegations can check out the relevant paragraphs: paragraphs 213 and 214. Now, the Committee noted … and I actually think I should read out those paragraphs for the delegations so they really get the understanding here.

> "The Committee noted that Algeria in a note verbale, dated 21 March 2002, had applied for membership in the Committee. The request by Algeria for membership in the Committee had also been submitted to the Secretariat in a note verbale dated 8 June 2001. The Committee noted that the Group of 77 and China, the Group of African States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, as well as other member States, had supported the request by Algeria for membership in the Committee. Communications received from regional groups, as well as those received from Burkina Faso, France and Jordan, supporting the request by Algeria for membership in the Committee, were before the Committee."

... and there is a reference to conference room paper 10. And now I move on to paragraph 214:

> "The Committee also notes that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in a note verbale to the Secretariat, dated 13 May 2002, had applied for membership in the Committee. The Committee was further informed in the note verbale, dated 14 June 2002, that the Group of African States had endorsed the candidature of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for membership in the Committee. "

In that year, in the General Assembly, it was negotiated in the fourth Committee … I want to make reference to the two relevant paragraphs in question of those applications and I am referring to General Assembly resolution 57/116, paragraph 39 reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly takes note of Algeria's interest in and contributions to the work of the Committee and of its request to become a member of the Committee, as well as of the support for that request expressed by the Group of 77 and other regional groups and member States, and decides on an exceptional basis, to accept its membership in accordance to paragraph 41 of General Assembly resolution 56/51".

And then paragraph 40 reads:

> "Welcomes the interest of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in membership in the Committee and the endorsement of its candidature by the Group of African States, and requests the Committee to continue the consideration of the matter, constructively, during its next session, taking into account the principle of consensus".

That was in 2002. I would now like to refer to the report of the Committee from 2004 and I refer to document A/59/20, "Membership of the Committee":

> "In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Committee considered the application of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for membership in the Committee".

And paragraph 256 reads:

> "The Committee recalled the request of the General Assembly to conduct constructive consultations within the Committee, as well as among regional groups, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with a view of reaching a positive and final decision on the membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the 59th session of the General Assembly".

In the meantime, Thailand had applied for membership, and consequently the following paragraph 257 reads:

> "The Committee also noted the application of Thailand for membership of the Committee".

And then, in paragraph 258:

> "The Committee agreed to recommend to the General Assembly, at is 59th session in 2004, that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Thailand should become members of the Committee".

So, what can be seen from these references that I made is that applications of member States — they

are individual — they are always presented in individual documents, and as delegations have seen from this session, we have the 3 applications separated in 3 specific conference room papers because we had received individual notes verbales, formal application notification to the Secretariat from the 3 countries concerned, and they have been circulated/transmitted officially to all member States of the Committee. So, it is crystal clear that the 3 applications are being treated individually in that sense. As far as the General Assembly procedure is concerned, the General Assembly deals with the applications in separate paragraphs, as you have seen from the example given from that resolution.

Now, delegations, with this in mind, we should consult further and determine how, we as the Committee, treat these 3 applications at this particular session — of course on the basis of consensus — since that is the primary rule of this body since 50 years. Ultimately, in all cases of applications, it is the General Assembly that decides. The final decision is taken by the General Assembly. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the Secretariat for these clarifications.

Yes, I noticed the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan. You have the floor.

Mr. A. HAJIZADA (*Azerbaijan*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, also my delegation numerously expressed its legitimate concern of sending the membership of the Republic of Armenia to the membership of COPUOS. I would like once more to repeat our concern: the Republic of Armenia behaviour with regard — and this is not a politicization of the issue — this is a matter directly related to the use of outer space affairs — behaviour is not within the principles of COPUOS. Armenia is preventing/impeding my country's activities in outer space, the space programmes and mainly the launching of our satellite. This is our main concern, and I have numerously mentioned it. This is not a politicization of COPUOS' work. This is our major concern, and as I have mentioned — and as it was clarified by the Secretariat of COPUOS — there is no precedent within the work of COPUOS that the application should be considered as a package — even it was considered in 1994 — it was achieved by consensus. Nowadays there is no consensus to look at these applications as a package. That is why my delegation is not engaged in consultations on this issue and that we kindly ask you to proceed with the election of two countries, namely Costa Rica and Jordan, and the recommendation to the GA on their membership and I would like also to note that without recommendation of COPUOS, the nomination of the Republic of Armenia cannot be considered in GA and then for the Committee. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan for your intervention.

I see the distinguished representative of Turkey. You have the floor.

Mr. T. UYKUR (*Turkey*) Thank your Mr. Chairman, and despite my delegation's statement at the beginning of the session, let me individually congratulate you for your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman, on this particular matter of membership, we have been following very carefully the debates since yesterday. Of course, it would be much more preferable to reach consensus on the issue before us, but so far, as can be seen from the debate, it is not the case. Two individual applications on the one side and one individual application on the other one being under consensus so far.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the Secretariat for the detailed explanations and the examples provided make us think that the precedence that had been given an example, in our view, falls short, in our view, of providing a concrete and binding precedence or a rule for the Commission. They have certain value and it is important to note them. However, the explanation given on the basis of maintaining geographical balance, for instance, is not concrete enough given the current membership and composition of the Committee. In that respect, we are of the opinion that the binding nature — that we cannot speak of a binding nature of the rules so far, we are approaching to creating a precedent at this point. Whether we shall create this precedent or not is up to the Committee at this point. In our view, it is a matter of choice: a political decision and we are approaching to that point now. But so far, there are no binding rules, to repeat the main point, once again.

Mr. Chairman, it may be useful to seek further consultations to reach consensus on this point and my delegation has no difficulty with that, but I would like to highlight our approach at this point that, in terms of dealing with membership applications, it is our view that the individual nature of each membership should be considered individually, and that each application should be considered on its own merits. If we go in the direction of taking up with package, in the future we

might have more critical and more difficult decisions, where a country may be in the same group with other countries which are in a very different situation, and that in our view, would not be a good precedent to create a this time for this Commission. Having said that, we are looking forward to further consultations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Turkey for his intervention.

Now I would like to give the floor to the United States of America. You have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (*United States*) Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor again. I want to be very clear of my earlier point several interventions before me.

What we are being asked to do is something we have never done before, which is deny the General Assembly the opportunity to make a decision on a particular member State's membership in COPUOS. In every instance dealing with membership, one way or another — whether it is a package or an individual member State — they all got a chance to make their case within the General Assembly, even though there were some countries that had reservations about certain member States joining COPUOS, they were allowed to go the General Assembly and make the case and a decision be made. So, what we are being asked to do today is just the opposite, which is to single out a particular country and not give them that opportunity, and that is the precedent that is going to be set. Not whether we are taking things up as package because we always have done that, and we always found one way or another, a way to deal with the membership question through consensus here in the Committee. I want to be very clear and I hope our distinguished delegates here in the room understand what we are being asked to do.

My delegation has no objection to the 3 countries that have provided their request for membership. That is not the point. The point is: what decision are we taking and are we doing to the right of the member State to be considered by the General Assembly to join this Committee?

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of United States of America.

If there are no more statements made by any delegation, I would …

Mr. A. HAJIZADA (*Azerbaijan*) Excuse me Chairman for taking the floor again, but I would like to clearly clarify the issue.

My delegation is against the nomination of Armenia to the membership and we are also against to make any recommendation to GA on this application. Without reaching a consensus, it is not possible to send the nomination to GA resolution and that is why we kindly ask you to proceed immediately to the decision on the application of Costa Rica and Jordan because we are just wasting time on consultations, and consultations have not been reached positively on the application of Armenia and that I have explained clearly our concern and that this is our point and position on the issue and that is it. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan.

Yes, we have your concern and your proposal. The speed of COPUOS is on consensus and we still have some time. Before I conclude, we have the request from the distinguished representative of Armenia. You have the floor.

Ms. A. BAGHDASARYAN (*Armenia*) Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. I do not even want to respond to the accusation made by one delegation and I would just like to ask to postpone this question until Friday. Thank you.

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

As I said, I would like to suspend this "Other matters" until — waiting for the consultation to reach consensus, if possible — I would like to suspend this matter for tomorrow.

Now, distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 7, "Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space UNISPACE III".

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Japan. You have the floor.

Mr. Y. TAKEUCHI (*Japan*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to

present the Japanese activities relating to the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.

Japan has actively participated in, and contributed to, a number of action teams established for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, as the Chair of the Action Team of Space Education.

Japan continues to carry out activities in support of education and capacity-building in the Earth observation area as well.

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished delegates, please be quiet since Japan is making his statement.

Mr. Y. TAKEUCHI (*Japan*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Japan continues to carry out activities in support of education and capacity-building in the Earth observation area as well. JAXA provides training opportunities for, and promotes the use of remote sensing technologies through ALOS application verification projects. Japanese continuous contribution to space education through APRSAF and the International Space Education Board (ISEB) will be presented by my colleague under agenda item 11.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to implementing Action Item 10, the "Improvement of universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems, called Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)", Japan participates as a founding member in the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite System (ICG). We successfully hosted the 6th ICG meeting in Tokyo from the 5th to the 9th in September last year. Japan is promoting two GNSS, the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (GZSS) and MTSAT Satellite-based Augmentation System (MSAS). QZSS is an augmentation system of GPS, which enables the expansion of the available area and time of using GNSS, as well as enhance accuracy of positioning. Japan continues to develop and maintain the high accuracy positioning system and endeavours to increase the use of satellite-based services concerning positioning navigation and timing in the future.

Mr. Chairman, regarding the implementation of an integrated global system to manage natural disaster mitigation, relief and prevention efforts, called for in Action Item 7, Japan is working together with relevant countries and organizations to operate "Sentinel Asia". Sentinel Asia can contribute to the UN-SPIDER project promoted by UNOOSA. Following the great earthquake in March last year, we received thousands of satellite images through the International Disaster Charter and Sentinel Asia. Taking this opportunity, I wish to express my sincere gratitude once again for this tremendous support. We assure you that Japan will reciprocate by taking various measures to reduce natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to note that at the Rio+20 conference to be held just after this Committee, the contributions of COPUOS and the effectiveness of peaceful uses of outer space will be considered. The inputs from this Committee address an important issue that has been discussed over the last half century. Presenting the outcomes of our discussions here in this Committee at a global UN conference, such as Rio+20, have a significant means. As one of the member states actively conducting space activities, Japan fully supports the efforts of this Committee to bring the results of its work to the attention of the global conferences for their consideration and action. I Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak on this agenda item at this time?

I see none.

We will continue our consideration of agenda item 7, "Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III" tomorrow morning.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 10, "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of India. You have the floor.

Mr. R. SATEESH KUMAR (*India*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The Indian space programme has the primary responsibility of promoting the development of space science, technology and applications towards achieving self-reliance and facilitating all-round development of the nation. India has been pursuing a systematic and well defined policy for transfer of know-how of products and technologies developed by these Indian Space Centres. Many of the technologies developed for space applications were found to be immensely

beneficial to other fields as well. The Indian delegation would like to highlight some of these technologies.

Mr. Chairman, in the 54th session of UNCOPUOS, the Indian delegation has briefed this committee of some of the spin-off benefits, like the low-cost search and rescue beacon, an innovative process of extracting silica from rice-husk ash, radio-sonde for use in weather balloons, polyurethane foam pads and thermal paints. The Indian delegation would like to highlight some other technologies that find applications in diverse areas.

Mr. Chairman, the digital holographic testing machine is an efficient non-destructive testing equipment for detecting debonds, cracks, internal cracks, stress and deformations. This equipment has the capability of showing the fringe patterns online on a computer monitor using holographic testing software. The system provides for generation and display of digital holograms on real time basis. This equipment processes in real time and displays both digital interferograms and shearograms simultaneously and can be carried anywhere for Non Destructive Testing of large size structures.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian Space Research Organisation has developed a new technology for developing silica fibres by sol-gel process. The fibres can be used for high temperature insulation up to 1500°C. The low temperature process adopted for developing silica fibres is more economical than the conventional technologies and can give high purity fine fibres. In addition, the fibres are hollow, thereby improving the insulation property further.

Mr. Chairman, the adhesives developed for various space applications are being used in other applications like automotives with improved performance. Similarly, a cleansing cream developed to remove propellant stains have been certified for use in chemical and polymer industries, workshops, refineries etc.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to mention that the contribution of the Indian Space Programme extends to several other areas and the technologies originally developed for space applications, now find wide-spread use in diverse fields across the nation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the United States of America. You have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (*United States of America*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the United States takes great pride in sharing the fruits of its aerospace research and development efforts, bringing the benefits of technologies born in space and in the skies back down to Earth. Often understated, these innovations have been successfully spun-off to private industry and made available to people around the world.

Among this year's examples are a retrofit system that can convert gas-powered vehicles into fuel-saving gas-electric hybrids; a suppression system that extinguishes fires more quickly and using far less water than traditional fire fighting means; a clean energy technology significantly enhanced by elements from space shuttle engine design; and a unique emergency management technology providing a suite of essential capabilities for first responders and officials during and after natural disasters.

Through close collaboration with NASA's Glenn Research Center, an Illinois-based company worked on two advanced projects: testing the effectiveness of supercapacitors for power systems, and developing a retrofit system for converting gas-powered vehicles into gas-electric hybrids. The latter effort resulted in a breakthrough commercial hybrid system that yields a fuel savings of 15 to 26 per cent Multiple-stop, short-distance delivery vehicles used for everything from mail to food distribution tend to benefit most from the technology, which through fuel savings covers the cost of installation within 3 to 4 years. This same partnership resulted in the creation of a line of electric motors available through 150 dealers worldwide; the manufacture of these motors now supports 100 jobs.

With a host of Earth-observing satellites orbiting the globe at all times, NASA generates an unmatched wealth of data about our ever-changing planet. One Mississippi-based company, through a partnership with NASA's Stennis Space Center, has taken advantage of geospatial data gathered by the Agency to power a unique emergency management system that draws together a wealth of situational information to allow first responders and officials to make informed decisions prior to, during, and after a disaster. Accessible through any computer and even handheld devices for use by emergency workers in the field, the system combines everything from water

levels to the location of police cars to the number and current capacity of shelters and hospitals, and more — all in real time. The system is now in use at all NASA centres and other state and independent emergency organizations. The company started in 2002 with two employees, now employs close to 75 and has generated over $2.5 million in revenue.

Partnering with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, a Wisconsin company engineered a low cost, highly reliable, and versatile rocket engine. The company then incorporated elements from the rocket engine design into an innovation it was developing in a seemingly unrelated field; that is fire fighting. The result was an ultra-high pressure fire suppression system that significantly reduces the time needed to extinguish many fire situations while enhancing fire-fighter safety and using less water. This system has demonstrated the capability to extinguish a room fire in 17.3 seconds using 13.6 gallons of water, compared to 1 minute and 45 seconds and 220 gallons of water for a standard fire fighting line. The system is also capable of putting out fully engulfed cars in a mere 9 seconds.

Also emerging from rocket propulsion innovations is an advanced energy generation technology that is cleaner than comparable existing systems. A long time NASA partner based in Connecticut capitalized on the expertise developed while working on the Space Shuttle Main Engines to create improved, commercial-scale, compact gasification plants that produce energy with 10 per cent less carbon emissions than standard gasification technologies. Each commercial system deployment represents the emissions reduction equivalent of 50,000 cars taken off the road. The NASA-influenced plants can also be built with 10 to 20 per cent less capital cost. With worldwide gasification capability expected to grow 70 per cent by 2015, this NASA spin-off promises to play a major role in clean energy advancement.

Space and aeronautics research continues to improve and revolutionize our lives, as NASA research is spun-off into tangible and remarkable benefits for all. Our resolve to improve the quality of life on Earth and to benefit humankind provides the impetus to develop and disseminate these technologies. The handful of examples I have highlighted are the direct result of the United States Government's civil space programme dedicated to active and productive collaboration with private industry. Additional information about these and many other interesting spin-offs is provided in NASA's publication, Spinoff 2011, a copy of which can be found on the web at http://spinoff.NASA.gov. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak on this agenda item at this time?

I see none.

We will therefore continue our consideration of agenda item 10, "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status", tomorrow morning.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 11, "Space and Society".

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of South Africa. You have the floor.

Mr. A. SEPTEMBER (*South Africa*) Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving the delegation of South Africa the opportunity to deliver this short contribution under agenda item 11, "Space and Society".

South Africa faces many developmental challenges to which space applications can make a vital contribution.

The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) was established in December 2010 to develop and implement the national space programme.

Public understanding of the benefits of space technology is essential for shaping and maintaining public and political support for space activities, so that they are understood to be essential activities for societal benefit — not a luxury.

To this end, a number of interventions have been put in place by various government departments in South Africa.

The annual World Space Week celebrations that take place during the first week of October each year provide an important opportunity to promote public understanding of space activities. In 2011, the World Space Week activities in South Africa were closely aligned with the International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2011), which took place in Cape Town from 3 to 7 October. Indeed, the Congress was timed to coincide with World Space Week.

A professional development workshop for school educators was organised on the margins of the IAC 2011 in the framework of the International Space Education Board, under the lead of NASA as ISEB chair. About 140 educators participated in this event. They benefitted from the experience of colleagues from the ISEB member space agencies to supplement their classroom activities with examples and teaching materials developed by the international space community.

ISEB also arranged a session for learners at the International Astronautical Congress. The session was attended by about 700 children. The participants met astronauts, listened to talks about life in space, participated in educational activities and visited the space exhibition attached to the Astronautical Congress. The event was so popular with the learners that it lasted 4 hours longer than was originally scheduled. This was a powerful demonstration of the ability of space to captivate young people. My delegation would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to all the space agencies that contributed to the immense success of the educational and outreach activities attached to the International Astronautical Congress.

The Astronautical Congress was also used to address the gender imbalance in the aerospace sector. Special efforts were made to attract women and girls to participate in various aspects of the Congress. An African chapter of the international organization "Women in Aerospace" was established to encourage greater participation by women in the aerospace sector in Africa.

The development of capacity in all aspects of the space arena is one of the key thrusts of the South African national space programme. The French-South Africa Institute at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology has established a Cube-Sat programme that has trained about 40 postgraduate students from South Africa and a variety of other African countries. This group hosted the first African Cube-Sat Workshop from 30 September to 2 October 2011. The event was attended by 130 participants from 10 African countries, and from North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. South Africa's first student-built Cube-Sat was unveiled at this workshop and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology is currently engaged in the necessary regulatory processes to launch this Cube-Sat.

In the area of space law, the Department of Trade and Industry has supported the development of a new curriculum on air, space and telecommunications law at the University of Pretoria. Under the aegis of this programme, a special two week-long symposia on air, space and telecoms law were organized in February 2012, and attended by government officials, State institutions, industry and ordinary students.

In May 2012, the first African round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court was hosted by the University of Pretoria on the initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry. Teams from Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa took part in this round, which was judged by a panel of space law experts that included the current Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, Mr. Brisibe. The winner of this first African round of the Moot Court was the team from Nigeria. We congratulate them and wish them success as they represent Africa in the world final round in Naples in October. Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, thank you for your kind attention.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of South Africa for his statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the United States of America. You have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (*United States of America*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, my Delegation is pleased to address the special theme of Space and Education during this session. We acknowledge the important role of space education for inspiring students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; to increase the number of professionals entering those fields; to strengthen national capabilities in the fields of science and industry; and to enhance educational opportunities using distance learning technologies such as tele-education and e-learning.

The United States' civil space programme continues to emphasize the importance of space to education, and education to space.

The International Space Station continues to play an important role in education, reaching out to international educational communities. For example, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station programme inspires students worldwide to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math through amateur radio contacts with the on-orbit crew of the ISS. The programme is maintained by a dedicated group of international amateur radio operators who have helped millions of people from around the world interact with astronauts and cosmonauts.

Likewise, the NASA-sponsored ISS EarthKAM programme — or Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students — allows students and teachers to directly benefit from the ISS' tremendous educational potential. During EarthKAM missions — that is periods when the EarthKAM camera is operational — middle school students from across the globe use the World Wide Web to direct a camera on board the ISS to photograph specific locations on Earth.

The recently launched Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL) MoonKAM (Moon Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students) is NASA's first planetary mission with instruments fully dedicated to education. The MoonKAM will engage middle schools across the country in the GRAIL mission and lunar exploration. Students will select target areas on the lunar surface and send requests to the GRAIL Operations Center. Photos of the target areas will be sent back by the GRAIL satellites. Students will use the images to study lunar features, such as craters and highlands, while also learning about future landing sites.

NASA has partnered with Space Adventures and YouTube on a global competition that challenged 14 to 18-year-old students to design a science experiment that could be performed in space. The winning experiment will be conducted aboard the space station this year. Students, either alone or in groups of up to three, were invited to submit a video to YouTube describing their experiments. From the finalists, two global winners were announced; they will see their experiments performed in space and streamed online this summer.

NASA's Mission Directorates and Center Education Offices also provide a variety of educational programmes and resources for NASA's elementary, secondary, higher education and informal education partners — both in the United States and around the world. NASA's Digital Learning Network, with studios at each of NASA's 10 centres, uses videoconference and webcast technologies to connect students from across the United States and the world to NASA educators. During Digital Learning Network events, international schools are regularly paired with U.S. schools on a videoconference with NASA, providing a unique opportunity for students to not only learn about space, but also to interact with each other and learn about another culture.

Earlier this year, 93 teams from the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, and Russia competed in NASA's 19th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race at the Marshall Space Flight Center. The race challenges students to design, build and race lightweight, human-powered buggies that tackle many of the same engineering challenges dealt with by Apollo-era lunar rover developers at the Marshall Center in the late 1960s.

Similarly, earlier this year, 66 teams from the U.S., Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, India, Mexico, Romania, and South Korea participated in the 3rd Annual Lunabotics Mining Competition at the Kennedy Space Center. This university-level competition challenged students to design and build an excavator — or Lunabot — that can mine and deposit a minimum of 10 kilograms of simulated lunar material within 10 minutes.

As the 2010-2011 Chair of the International Space Education Board, NASA led the Board activities held at the 62nd International Astronautical Congress held in Cape Town, South Africa. Last year's theme was "You are the World's Future in Space". Approximately 400 eighth grade students from the Western Cape were brought to the IAC venue for hands-on activities that introduced them to key space-related concepts like renewable energy, astronomy and robotics. The event also exposed the students to a wide variety of possible space careers, from engineering and scientific research to communication and policymaking. The Iziko Museum of Cape Town and the LEGO Foundation provided a rich experience for the students as well as the potential for ongoing follow-on activities.

Mr. Chairman, I have presented a number of examples of ways in which my country is working hard to inspire the next generation of explorers and to strengthen our national educational posture by using content, materials, and applications unique to space activities. We look forward to sharing ideas and experiences with the Committee and to learning more about the successes achieved by other Member States. Thank you.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Nigeria. You have the floor.

Ms. M. O. LAOSE (*Nigeria*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I thank you for giving my delegation another opportunity to contribute to this agenda item.

The National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria, through the United Nations affiliated African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English, Nigeria, has continued to make concerted efforts towards the execution of its space education and public awareness programmes. The populace is being strategically motivated to increase awareness and understanding of the application of space science and technology to meeting the developmental needs of the people. Decision and policymakers, academicians, community base organizations, traditional institutions, professional groups and school children at all levels have been engaged in various space education awareness programmes.

Innovative approaches to creating awareness and arousing the interest of school children and young adults in space exploration and exploitation were employed. This includes interactive and participatory approaches, with response from target groups, to educate, inform and enlighten the people about the benefits of space to the society.

In February 2011, a Robotic Education programme was introduced by the African ARCSSTE-E Centre in collaboration with iLAB of the Obafemi Awolowo University campus, lle-Ife. The programme includes training of school children for a period of six weeks. The objectives of the Robotic Education Programmes, which had its theme as "Useful Applications of Robotics in the Society", are to (i) inspire young learners to develop interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, (ii) inculcate collaborative thinking and develop team spirit, (iii) foster creative thinking and problem solving skills using hands-on, and (iv) promote scientific inquiry and cultivate mentorship skills among school children and young adults. Participants were trained on how to build a robot and program it to perform specific tasks using Lego Mindstorm kits. At the end of the Robotic training programme, a competition and an exhibition were organized and the best team of students was selected to participate in the World Robotic Olympiad held at Abu Dhabi from 18th to 20th November, 2011.

Similarly, Mr. Chairman, a CANsat building project was introduced to the University Space Clubs as part of the Centre's Outreach activities for 2011. Students of the Obafemi Awolowo University's space club have undergone a training workshop organized by the staff of the Centre in collaboration with the Centre for Satellite Technology Development of the National Space Agency of Nigeria. The students are currently working together to build their own CANsats. In addition, the Centre has finalized arrangements to train children at the secondary school level to develop the CANsat as part of the hands-on activities of the space education outreach programmes.

The National Space Research and Development Agency, through the African Regional Centre celebrated the 2011 World Space Week with its theme "Fifty Years of Human Space Flight". The celebration highlighted several key areas of space and the society. In one of the activities, over 1,500 teachers and school children were engaged in debate and quiz competitions on the theme. In addition, the Centre organized its first annual public lecture titled "Space in the Revitalization of Nigeria's Economy". The lecture was delivered by the former Chairman of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), Dr. Adigun Ade Abiodun. In a thought-provoking and inspiring public lecture, Dr. Abiodun, who is also the founder of the African Space Foundation, traced the source of Nigeria's present socioeconomic development challenges to the reliability on oil industry alone. He, however, highlighted the invaluable benefits inherent in the application of space technology to all areas of human endeavour, and concluded that Nigeria can advance economically by making space technology an indispensable tool in revitalizing of the nation's economy.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, the Centre collaborated with the Organization of Women in Science for Developing World, formally Third World Organization for Women in Science, to organize the school-based awareness programme, including the establishment of Space Clubs. The space clubs serve as platforms where students interact and learn more about space science and technology in a more relaxed atmosphere.

In September 2011, 33 participants from 7 countries, namely Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, graduated from the nine-month postgraduate diploma programmes in space science and technology applications. Currently, the 2012 academic session has commenced with the participation of 40 students from Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Zimbabwe. To further strengthen cooperation among participating countries and harness the benefits of capacity-building efforts by the regional Centre, the Second ARCSSTE-E Regional Conference and Alumni Reunion has been scheduled to hold on 22nd and 24th August, 2012. The major objective of the Regional conference, which had

its theme as “Space for the Economic Growth and Prosperity of the African People”, is to meet and share experience. The conference also creates opportunity for past and present course participants and other professionals in the field of space science to rub minds and discuss ways and means of applying space technology to develop the socioeconomic potentials of the African region.

In our determination to strengthen the development of regional expertise and networks among mapping agencies in Africa in the area of GNSS applications, ARCSSTE-E is co-organizing a training workshop on Global Navigation Satellite Systems and Location Based services for heads of survey agencies in Africa. The workshop will be held from 29th to 31st August, 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya and will address issues such as surveying, mapping and the Implementation of the African reference frame. The Centre is organizing the training workshop in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Chairman, member counties have continued to cooperate with the Centre in the implementation of its United Nations mandate to provide space science and technology education to citizens of English-speaking African countries. In this connection, the Centre successfully held the 5th meeting of its Governing Board in Abuja, Nigeria on 22nd March, 2012 with representatives from seven countries namely: Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Liberia, Namibia, Uganda and Zambia. Six other countries, namely Kenya, Sudan, Ghana, Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Egypt, were represented by designated staff of their embassies in Nigeria. Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this agenda item.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Italy. You have the floor.

Ms. G. ARRIGO (*Italy*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and, distinguished delegates, the Italian delegation is very pleased to report on the agenda item “Space and Society”, believing that the relationship between Space activities and Society produce advantages to both elements in terms of scientific knowledge, culture and economic development.

The Italian Space Agency is actively engaged in the diffusion of space culture using different tools, such as social networks and media. The AsiTV is the first Italian webTV dedicated to Space containing news and curiosities coming directly from the actors of space adventure; the TGweb is a weekly tele-news online which collects information from science in general and from outer space in particular; the Newsletter on ASI activities and space chronicles is an instrument which maintains connected space users and the different space national communities. In addition, a special aerospace web channel is entirely dedicated to schools and students and, in a web directory “Stargate”, it is possible to find all web information from the institutions to the space blogs, from space agencies to industrial news.

Mr. Chairman, I am particularly glad to share with you and the other delegations the latest achievements in this field. One of the latest success of the Italian Space Agency was the prize received in relation to the involvement in the Cassini Huygens Mission, the NASA mission developed in collaboration with ESA and ASI from 1997. In April 2011 the Italian Cassini Flight Team, in fact, received the prestigious “Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Trophy” for the efforts and the results achieved in the mission. The mission is surprisingly expanding our knowledge on Saturn and the Solar System and thanks to these substantial outcomes the mission has been extended to 2017.

In May 2011 the Italian Space Agency received another well-known Italian prize, named “Capo d’Orlando Award” for our strong engagement in using multimedia communication for the diffusion of aerospace culture in society.

Mr. Chairman, an important social tool is also the Space Library on ASI web site, daily visited from scientists, students, teachers and experts. Linked to library activities, there are several publications of space magazines, as SpaceMAG, books and essays on space matters.

Finally, space calls and opportunities published on ASI site are platforms particularly attractive for professionals, young people, industrial and scientific communities.

Before I conclude Mr. Chairman, let me recall that tomorrow, ASI will make a presentation on ASI activities in education in favour of students in the first and second levels of schools. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Canada. You have the floor.

Ms. C. LEMIEUX (*Canada, interpretation from French*) Thank you Chair. The use of outer space technologies is something which indeed is becoming more and more important. Indeed, in the North we have a telecommunications centre going, jointly operated with Germany, and this makes it possible for local communities to make use of this input of data, on the basis of the North-Eastern Telematics Centre Activities. These themes are becoming more and more important internationally, but also in various spheres of our societies, whether is for its economic, industrial, commercial potential, or for environmental protection purposes.

This area in the Arctic is the home of many Canadians and now it has recently become the company headquarters of various of our companies. Our government recognizes the importance of this region and recently adopted a strategy for the Canadian North which intends, inter alia, to deploy increased capacities as regards monitoring and data collection in order to protect our environment and ensure the eco-social development of this region. New projects in which the Canadian Space Agency and other federal ministries are participating in, allow us to make available information necessary for political decision makers, for administrators and communities on the basis of the use of space technologies for development of unique capability as regards measurement, monitoring, collection, recording and analysis — and this for the benefit of our society.

I would like to give you some examples to illustrate what I am saying. The North offers sizeable challenges, inter alia, as regards telecommunications and meteorology. Geostationary satellites do not afford us complete coverage of the Canadian territory, in the Arctic in particular, where the mobile telecommunications services are limited, and this deprives certain areas in the Canadian North of the required high capacity, reliable telecommunications solutions for this region. The same goes for the met services. Regions above the 60th degree parallel are outside of the zone which is serviced by geostationary satellites and are not properly covered by low polar orbit satellites.

The Canadian Space Agency, to respond to the situation has successfully completed the initial phases of the PCW (Polar Communication Weather) mission, which has allowed us to demonstrate that this mission would be able to supply continuous broadband communications services 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, throughout the Arctic area — this improving the met forecasting and telecommunications services available. If it is approved, this mission will facilitate our operations in the North, contributing to Arctic security, including for the entire North of Canada.

Cassiopeia now, the launch last year of the Cassiopeia Committee Satellite will enable us to secure our communications services and to make big break in our knowledge of space meteorology on the basis of the use of its e-POP instrument — that is the Enhanced polar outflow probe. This instrument will observe the ionosphere and collect data concerning the impact of solar storms and their harmful effects on radio communications satellite nav. and other space technologies and land technologies.

The Canadian Northern regions are part of the places where the effects of solar storms are most felt and seen. These storms can also result in the reduction of the quality of signal transmission, thereby disturb telecommunications services, which are so necessary for the people living in these far away areas.

Now the M3MS-Sat (Marine Monitoring and Message Microsatellite), the launch is planned for this year. This is a project for a microsatellite, equipped with automatic identification system technology, and that enabling the identification of ships in order to ensure security of Canadian territorial waters and to support the commercial strategies of the Canadian industry for the purpose of world market integration.

RADARSAT 1 and RADARSAT 2 also enable us to give to give very precise Earth observation data, not just for the government and population, but also for 600 international users. Despite its age — RADARSAT 1 launched in ‘95 — remains a reliable tool enabling us to monitor vast country and to measure, with great accuracy, changes taking place in the ocean waters, which along with the distribution of sea ice, various kinds of ice and production of ice charts, on a daily basis. This information is particularly useful for petroleum exploration in the high seas, ocean research operations and localization of potentially productive fishing areas. The same monitoring capability also allows us to determine the extent of oil spills and to get the necessary information for control and cleaning operations.

RADARSAT 2 makes it possible to supply radar imagery in more flexible and accurate fashion,

enabling continuous monitoring of the Canadian North to enable decision makers to react promptly in case of disasters or other crises. New research stations for RADARSAT 2 are inaugurated each and every year. This demonstrates the usefulness of these data for many applications in support of the activities of many ministries and entities.

Finally, the mission for the constellation RADARSAT MCR will be a 3 satellite constellation, which will be principally tasked with ensuring the reliability and continuity of Canadian observation data, enhancing operational use of SAR radars and increasing the reliability of these systems. Thanks to the 3 satellites, the constellation will ensure complete coverage of the surface and territorial waters of Canada, increasing observation frequency. The radar imagery resulting from this constellation have a direct impact on our population lately, simultaneously to improve the support for the management and the sustainable development of regional natural resources to improve meteorological monitoring and nav. security, to ensure a proper observance of regulations with regards to fisheries, environment and, finally, to enable better management of disasters, humanitarian aid and emergency relief operations. It will also afford daily access to 95 per cent of the surface of the globe, and this will be useful for Canadian and international users — it will step up the capacity of Canada to use space solutions for maritime operational monitoring,. disaster management and ecosystem follow-up. It will ensure the possibility of furthering the strategic objectives of Canada, as regards security and support for populations, especially in the Arctic region. Thank you.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Indonesia. You have the floor.

Ms. E. S. ADININGSIH (*Indonesia*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to share our views.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, the Indonesian delegation would like to express our view that Indonesia will engage in discussions under this agenda item. We would reiterate our view, as we expressed In the discussion on "Organizational matters", that this topic is still very relevant to be discussed by the Committee in the future. As most member states have agreed upon the consolidated agenda proposed by the Secretariat, namely "Space and Sustainable Development", we would confirm the importance of "Space and Society" issue should be continued for discussions under a consolidated agenda of the forthcoming sessions of the COPUOS.

The Indonesian delegation would update on our activities in the issue of "Space and Society" as follows:

Firstly, Indonesia has undertaken yearly activities entitled Indonesian Rocket Payload Competition or Komurindo since 2009. The competition involves the students from many universities, including the students of the Asia Pacific countries. The fourth competition of this year was held on 8 until 10 June 2012.

Secondly, Indonesia has undertaken space technology development by several universities, which is coordinated by Gadjah Mada University. The activity involves students and young scientists to enhance space technology capability for peaceful purposes by synergizing academic curriculum to develop nanosatellite. The activity is called Indonesian Nano-Satellite Platform Initiative for Research & Education, or INSPIRE, programme.

Thirdly, Indonesia has also actively participated in the APRSAF Water Rocket Competition. One of the venues was in Indonesia in 2006.

Mr. Chairman, with those activities, Indonesian delegation would reaffirm our concern on the importance of space education for society to promote awareness and space-mindedness, particularly of the young generation, so achievements in space technology and missions, made since 1960s, could be further developed for peaceful purposes by future generations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Distinguished delegates, is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item, "Space and society"?

I see none.

We will therefore continue our consideration of agenda item 11, "Space and Society" tomorrow morning

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting. 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 continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 9, and we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, “Space and Water”; we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 7, “Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III”, agenda item 10, “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status”, and agenda item 11, “Space and society”. There will be three technical presentations tomorrow morning: the first one by a representative of Italy entitled “ASI Educational activities”, the second one by a representative of India on “RISAT-1”, and the final one by a representative of the Space Generation Advisory Council entitled “Results from the Inaugural Space Generation Fusion Forum — The Fusion of Today’s International Space Leaders with the Next Generation”.

Expert group D on Regulatory Regimes and Guidance for Actors in the Space Arena of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities will be meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the meeting room MOE1OO.

Also tomorrow, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., there will be informal consultations held by Ambassador Walter Lichem and Ambassador Raimundo Gonzalez Aninat on the topic “Space and ecosystem protection”. The meeting will be held in MOE19.

This evening, delegations are cordially invited to the traditional Austrian Heurigen evening

Are there any questions to this proposed schedule?

I see none.

This meeting is adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thank you distinguished delegates.