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

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652nd Meeting  
Tuesday, 12 June 2012, 10 a.m.  
Vienna

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

*The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN** Good morning distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 652nd 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 morning. We will re-open our consideration of agenda item 5, "General exchange of views", to hear two statements by delegations and we open agenda item 6, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes" to hear a statement. We will begin our consideration of agenda item 14, "Use of space technology in the United Nations system", agenda item 15, "Future role of the Committee". We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 16, "Other matters", by first considering the applications for membership of the Committee and applications for permanent observer status with the Committee.

There will be two technical presentations this morning: by a representative of Japan, entitled "Establishment of the International Center for Space Weather Science and Education at Kyushu University, Japan", and by a representative of India, entitled "Megha Tropiques".

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 from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in meeting room MOE100.

The Action Team on Near Earth Objects is holding its third meeting from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in room MOE27.

I would also like to inform delegates that after the conclusion of the morning meeting, the Chair of the Working Group on Long-term sustainability of outer space activities will hold an informal briefing, for all delegations, on the activities of the Working Group on the Long-term sustainability of outer space activities,

and its expert groups. The briefing will be held in this conference room, following the plenary.

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

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to re-open our consideration of agenda item 5, "General exchange of views" to hear a statement by delegations. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Iran. You have the floor.

**Mr. H. FAZELI** (*Islamic Republic of Iran, interpretation from Arabic*) In the Name of God the Compassionate the Merciful.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, We are pleased to join and share our worldwide mutual efforts towards peaceful uses of outer space and are pleased to extend our delegation's best wishes and warmest congratulations to you, Dr. Yasushi Horikawa, on the occasion of your election as Chairman of the committee for the period of 2012-2013 and your esteemed members of the bureau.

Our gratitude also goes to your predecessor Dr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu and his team for their valuable efforts.

We would also wish to offer our sincere appreciation to the Director of UNOOSA, Dr. Mazlan Othman, the secretariat and dedicated colleagues who continuously have led the Office for Outer Space Affairs effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Chairman, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the co-founders of COPUOS, has always supported and appreciated work of the committee to buttress the principles governing outer space activities which are envisaged in the United Nations legal regime. In this connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully convinced that outer space should remain only for peaceful uses and explorations with equitable access for all States and every individual.

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The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that it is the responsibility of all States and the global society to recruit space technology for the well-being of mankind and long-term sustainable development for our entire planet.

Mr. Chairman, since our previous committee session the following gives a brief summary of developments in Iranian Space Agency activities:

1. In order to enrich and support our technological developments, the Iranian Space Agency initiated a policy of enriching its research capabilities; the Iranian Space Research Center is now affiliated to the Iranian Space Agency, this combined with our close cooperation with Universities, completes the chain of our scientific capabilities.

2. The number of universities which offer aerospace engineering majors have been expanded extensively over the last two decades. As a result, there is a considerable number of graduates and post graduates in space-related fields which are involved in technological research projects.

3. Since our meeting in 2011, two domestically manufactured satellites were successfully put into elliptic orbit in June 2011 and February 2012, respectively. These two remote sensing research satellites named RASAD and NAVID spent their life time in expected operations and completed their missions successfully.

Mr. Chairman, as far as our ongoing plans aimed to develop and expand the application of space technologies are concerned I wish to make a brief reference to the following topics:

- Archive of Remotely sensed data Project
- Space Agency data center
- Establishment of monitoring and prediction system of rice yields using satellite imagery and GIS
- Satellite monitoring and control of environment and natural resources
- Modelling and prediction of drought
- Tele-medicine project based on space technology
- Remote sensing laboratory

Mr. Chairman, with close cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Iranian Space Agency organized and hosted a regional workshop on the Use of Space Technology

for Human Health Improvement from 23 to 26 October 2011, as reflected in the Conference Document A/AC.105/2012/CRP.13 of 5 June 2012. The basic objective of the workshop was to promote awareness of the use of space technology applied to health care and review such applications as tele-health and tele-education in medicine. The workshop was attended by international and domestic specialists and scientists. One third of the 33 presentations given in the course of the workshop were contributed by international participants. The workshop hosted about 120 Iranian physicians and specialists from the leading universities throughout the country involved with medical and hygiene issues. The outcomes of the workshop were profoundly appreciated by all participants as well as involved universities and scientists. I wish to stress our sincere appreciation to UNOOSA for their support and cooperation.

At the regional level; the Islamic Republic of Iran continuously contributes to and participates in the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) and the Inter Islamic Network on Space Science and Technology (ISNET) activities and meetings. We are delighted to host the next APSCO Council meeting in July 2012 in Tehran.

To expand our regional cooperation and enhance the use of space technology for natural disasters in the region, the Iranian Space Agency hosts the regional support office of UN-SPIDER. We appreciate UNOOSA support for this well needed regional requirement.

At the international level, Iran also contributes to several forums actively with the attitude of promoting mutual and multilateral understandings and extending cooperation in peaceful uses of space technology.

Mr. Chairman, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches a great importance to promote public awareness in use and applications of space technology. In this connection, every year the Iranian Space Agency conducts a vast range of programmes and ceremonies to uphold the General Assembly resolution which declares 4 to 10 October as World Space Week. Last year not excluded, we witnessed the effective role of these kinds of activities in increasing the awareness of society with the importance of space science and technology in everyday life. With respect to public awareness working with high schools has also opened a new road to effective communication with the young generation in this field.

Mr. Chairman, Iran is of the view that there is an urgent need to address the issue of space debris mitigation based on the feasible technical measurements and fair legal framework. We very much welcome the exchange of knowledge and experience in this important issue. I use the opportunity to emphasize that any form of Code of Conducts for outer space activities should be of a comprehensive and peaceful nature within the COPUOS legal framework, with full contribution of Member States, acceptable by all.

Mr. Chairman, more than half a century has elapsed since the establishment of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Time has now come to strengthen the committee's authority and structure to enhance its role in destiny of mankind. In the meantime observing the philosophy and the legal framework of COPUOS is obviously of vital importance which should be adhered to by all with no exception.

We sincerely hope that our mutual efforts in accessing the proper and appropriate role of the committee assure the quality of life which mankind expects from us and is indeed deserved to receive. I thank you Mr. Chairman

**The CHAIRMAN** I Thank you, distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for your statement. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia. You have the floor.

**Mr. H. ALTWAIJRY** (*Saudi Arabia*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful. Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Peace be upon you.

I have the pleasure, on behalf of the delegation of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia to offer you congratulations on your election to Chair of this 55th session, and I have no doubt that your capabilities with the cooperation of the delegations will ensure the success of this session. I would also like to congratulate the two vice-Chairs, assuring you of my delegation's honest cooperation and commitment to the success of this session and achieving its goals. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to Dr. Mazlan Othman and all members of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their great efforts. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Committee's newest members, especially we welcome the joining of Jordan. In this context we value the efforts of the other delegations in achieving the vision

of "peaceful use of outer space" according to the treaties related to outer space of the united nations within the framework of International Law ensuring development and prosperity to the people of the world.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully supports knowledge-based advancement, especially in the field of Space science, technology and peaceful applications, consequently the Nation Science, Technology and Innovation Policy was developed on the basis of the use and localization of technology to implement developmental initiatives that provide security, safety and welfare for citizens and residents alike. Charged with implementing the Policy; the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, in partnership and cooperation with public and private sectors, and academia, developed programmes and projects to support this plan.

Mr. Chairman, my country's delegation supports the decisions adopted by the General Assembly at their 66th session, and affirms that the exploration of Outer Space must be for peaceful purposes as indicated in the United Nations treaties and principles related to Outer Space and in the resolutions of the General Assembly and other relevant documents.

Mr. Chairman, the Kingdom is keen on maintain the integrity of Outer Space by reducing the risk of the incidence of an arms race in Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial bodies. The Kingdom encourages all countries that possess capability in the field of space applications to participate in maintaining the integrity of Outer Space from all forms of arms and pollution while upholding the rule of international law. Since the General Assembly in its 1992 resolution adopted the use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, and approved the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, consequently, the Kingdom supports this taking into consideration that there must be procedures reducing the use of this Power Source while taking extreme caution in assuring the safety of Humanity, Earth and Outer Space.

Mr. chairman, international collaboration in the field of space activities is the optimum path to achieve the desired goals of space exploration for peaceful purposes. The Kingdom represented by the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology has signed a number of international agreements in the fields of Space Technology and Applications, and believes that international collaboration is a manner of support and enhance sustainability of Space. Therefore, it is imperative that we in this session and that of the

Scientific and Technical and Legal subcommittees lay the foundations and principles for the policies and procedures to develop a legal framework for international cooperation to further continue the peaceful exploration of Outer Space and to utilize its applications for implementation of the United Nations Millennium's declaration and the recommendations of the world summit on sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman, the long-term sustainability of outer space requires the international community to lay strategies that are both complete and supported and based on multi-lateral concurrence. In addition to dedicated efforts to achieve best practices and guiding principles and international provisions based on International Law to achieve the desired goals so as not to undermine the social interests with commercial interests.

Additionally, the long-term sustainability of outer space requires knowledge of the space environment and space weather; which is of importance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially with a national satellite programme that requires knowledge of the environment in which their satellites will operate. Consequently, the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology has initiated work in this field where Saudi experts have participated in specialized conferences and offered their collaboration in this important field.

With regard to space debris, that pose many dangers to the sustainability of outer space, especially with the steady increase in effective agencies, launches and missions and the entering of the private sector. Therefore, a revisit and study is required of the guiding principles managing space debris in order to diminish future debris while trying to reduce the current.

The Kingdom supports enhancement of space situational awareness and space environment monitoring networks and the implementation of frameworks from monitoring countries that can provide accurate telemetry and data in order to make the informed decision towards awareness and publication of information providing safety to the international community from any falling debris. We hope that the results and recommendations of the Working Group and experts on Space debris will lead to the sustainability of Space.

Mr. Chairman, the world has witnessed in the past year and this year many catastrophic disasters, which resulted in heavy losses of life and property. Therefore enhancement of efforts and participation from nations in disaster management and emergency

response is required. To this matter, my country's delegation affirms the importance of supporting disaster management agencies and the coordination between the United Nations' agencies and programmes to implement the apt legislation to enhance international cooperation in this field for the sake of providing assistance to any effected entity. In this regard, the Kingdom has had and still plays an active role in providing assistance to effected nations, developing and developed, in order to reduce poverty, hunger and disease while maintaining the environment.

Thus, the King Abdulaziz city for Science and Technology organized the Saudi International Conference for Environmental Technology 2012 during the month of May 2012 under the patronage of the custodian of the two holy mosques; King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz; in which distinguished experts from a number of nations participated. As a result recommendations and suggestions that are expected to help in the awareness among the community and to find solutions based on the scientific research and study.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, my country's delegation would like to offer their thanks to the participating delegations and hopes that we will achieve our desired goals in a world of security, stability, prosperity and benevolence for humanity. We also, hope that this session achieves success and conciliation. With cordial thanks, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** I Thank you, distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia for his statement.

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

*I see none.*

We have therefore concluded our consideration of agenda item 5, "General exchange of views".

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 6, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes".

The distinguished representative of Brazil will have a statement. I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Brazil.

**Mr. F. FLORES PINTO** (*Brazil*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

My delegation would like to thank you for the opportunity given to express our views on agenda item 6.

Mr. Chairman, this agenda item has to do with the very nature of the works of this Committee. Assuring the peaceful uses of outer space requires the constant exploration of ways and means of maintaining order in space in such a way that the interests of different Member-States do not collide and be harmonized for the common good.

Mr. Chairman, Brazil is a deeply peaceful country and has been living in peace with its neighbours for over 140 years. In pursuance of this ideal of peace, Brazil has become part of all disarmament treaties, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty of Tlatelolco for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Brazilian Constitution adopted in October 5 1988, after the return of the country to democratic normalcy, commands that Brazil shall exercise its foreign policy guided by supreme legal principles, inter alia, the defence of peace, the primacy of peaceful settlement of conflicts and the cooperation with the nations of the world for the progress of humanity.

As a logical derivation of a political order that consecrates peace as one of its highest values, the Brazilian Space Program has always been peaceful. Brazilian legislators could not be clearer about its goals and the nature intended for space and nuclear activities in a democratic regime. Article 21, paragraph XXIII, item "a" of the Constitution states, leaving no shade for doubt: "all nuclear activities within the national territory shall only be admitted for peaceful purposes and subject to approval by the National Congress". In other words, through an unquestionable constitutional provision, Brazil affirmed the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The same spirit conducts the space activities.

The Brazilian National Program of Space Activities aims at enabling the country to develop and use space technology towards the solution of national problems. The ultimate goal is the welfare of Brazilian society — improvement of the quality of life, through the generation of wealth and job opportunities; improvement of scientific activities; expansion of awareness about the national territory and better assessment of environmental conditions. The purposes are purely peaceful and constructive.

Mr. Chairman, Brazil has been a radical supporter of multilateralism since before the inception of the United Nations. My country is aware that no matter different the threats to peace and security may be today, the United Nations continue to be crucial in order to address them.

Brazil also firmly supports the international "rule of law" — on earth and in space — which is an inseparable part of the core mission of the United Nations. In the recent years this decision has been made clear and I would refer especially to resolution A/RES/55/32 issued in the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly that deals exactly with the issue of "The rule of law at national and international levels". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** I Thank you, distinguished representative of Brazil for his statement. Are there any 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 6, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes".

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 14, "Use of Space Technology in the United Nations System".

The Inter-Agency Meeting held its thirty-second session in Rome, Italy from 7 to 9 March 2012. I would now like to invite Ms. Mazlan Othman, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to report on the outcomes of the meeting. Ms. Othman, you have the floor.

**Ms. M. OTHMAN** (*Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the annual United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities serves as the focal point for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities. This year, the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Inter-Agency Meeting, as informed by the Chair, was held in Rome, Italy, from 7 to 9 March. It was hosted by the World Food Programme. The session was attended by representatives of 11 United Nations entities.

The Meeting looked further into the ways to enhance coordination, cooperation and synergy within the United Nations system in planning and

implementation of space related activities. The meeting finalized the Report of the Secretary-General; and initiated the preparation of a special report. The report of the 32nd session of the Inter-Agency Meeting has been distributed to you in document A/AC.105/1015.

Allow me now to briefly report on the Meeting highlights:

1. The Inter-Agency Meeting reviewed and endorsed the Report of the Secretary-General on Coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2012-2013. This document is also before you in document A/AC.105/1014. Delegations may wish to note, in particular, the recommendations on enhancing the use of space-derived geospatial data within the United Nations system as contained in para. 86 (a) to (f) of the report.

The present report, which is the thirty-fifth in the series of these reports, targets the objectives of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, next week, and focuses on the coordination of deeper and broader use of space-derived geospatial data in support of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Delegations will recall that, in line with the decision of the 30th session of the IAM in 2010, the Secretary-General reports are now issued on a biannual basis, and the next report of the Secretary-General therefore will be issued in 2014.

2. In accordance with the new reporting structure, reports of the Secretary-General alternate with special reports on selected topics. Delegations will recall that the first special report entitled “Space benefits for Africa: contribution of the United Nations system” was prepared in 2009 by UNOOSA in cooperation with the Economic Commission of Africa. In 2011, a special report on the “Use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues” was adopted by the Inter-Agency Meeting and presented to COPUOS at its fifty-fourth session. I am pleased to inform that on the basis of this latter special report, a publication entitled “Space and Climate Change” was jointly prepared by World Meteorological Office and the Office for Outer Space Affairs and was distributed widely at the Durban Climate Change Conference of Parties in November-December 2011. A copy of the publication has also been made available to COPUOS delegations via your pigeon holes. The next special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting, to be issued in 2013, will address the use of space technology for agriculture and food

security. The Office looks forward to further cooperating with the World Food Programme and other United Nations entities in preparation of this special report.

3. In conjunction with the Inter-Agency Meeting, an open informal session on “Space for agriculture and food security” was held on 9 March to promote a direct dialogue among Member States, United Nations entities, research institutions and private sector on important space-related developments in the United Nations system. Nine presentations were made by representatives of United Nations entities, space agencies and other stakeholders, namely the World Food Programme addressed “Applications of Remote Sensing to Food Security Analysis at WFP” and “Space information for enhanced risk management, food security and resilience”; the Food and Agriculture Organization addressed “Remote Sensing application for agricultural monitoring”; the European Commission Joint Research Centre addressed “Crop Monitoring and Food Security: the JfRC’s action and prospects”; e-GEOS addressed “Geospatial information Services, Optical and CosmoSkyMed satellite data supporting food quality and security”; the Italian Agency for Agricultural Disbursements addressed “The multisource Remote Sensing activity for the agricultural monitoring and the European Union Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidy controls in Italy”; Gisat addressed “Agriculture change assessment in Yemen and Somalia”; the European Space Agency addressed “ESA Satellite Data for Agriculture”; and lastly, the Italian Space Agency spoke on “Space for agriculture monitoring”.

The secretariat was very pleased to witness high level interest of stakeholders, including 15 Member States who used this valuable opportunity to exchange ideas on the implementation of space-related activities within the United Nations family. We would like to request the Member States of COPUOS to continue encouraging the participation of their representatives in these open informal sessions, held in conjunction with Inter-Agency Meeting.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, I would like to conclude my statement by informing delegations that the presentations made at the open informal session, as well as reports and information on the current space-related activities of the United Nations entities, are available on the website dedicated to the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. I thank you for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank Ms. Othman for this informative statement. I would now like to turn to

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

**Mr. T. YAMAMOTO** (*Japan*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to express our view on this agenda item.

Various space-based technologies have the potential to contribute to resolving many global issues facing today's human society. Japan has been cooperating with the UN system in tackling these issues by utilizing space-based technologies. I would like to share with you some of our experience in this regard.

First, Japan, through JAXA, contributes to the activities of ESCAP — the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific — that address the most important development issues in Asia and the Pacific, such as disaster management, bridging the digital divide, water resource management and adaptation to climate change. Besides the cooperation through Sentinel Asia, JAXA has cooperated with ESCAP's Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) by using the communications satellite, called "KIZUNA" to provide distance training for statistics experts in Mongolia.

Second, JAXA has concluded a memorandum of understanding with UNESCO — the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization — and cooperated in monitoring World Heritage Sites using the Advanced Land Observing Satellite, ALOS or "DAICHI", to watch and protect the common legacy of all mankind. JAXA has provided image data on 10 World Heritage Sites in Japan and other foreign countries, mainly Asian countries, approximately twice a year. Although "DAICHI" terminated its operation on May 12, 2011, JAXA will continue to contribute by setting up a database of World Heritage Site images that have been acquired up to date. JAXA also provides "DAICHI" images to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to support the wetlands survey.

Mr. Chairman, we are also pleased to see that following the proposal submitted by Japan and co-sponsored by a few other member States, ESCAP, at its 68th Commission session adopted a resolution, entitled "Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017". We look forward to working with many other member States in support of

the Asia-Pacific Years of Action. Thank you for your attention.

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

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

*I see none.*

We will continue our consideration of agenda item 14, "Use of Space Technology in the United Nations System", this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 15, "Future role of the Committee".

The Committee agreed at its fifty-fourth session to continue its consideration of the item at its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, for one year only, and to consider submissions under the item, including a proposed update of the working paper contained in document A/AC.105/L.278. See last year's report in A/66/20, para. 279, where this mandate for our consideration at this year's session is reflected. The Secretariat has confirmed to me that it has not received any update to document L.278. In line with the mandate, we should decide at this session on the continuation of this agenda item.

Distinguished delegates, before I open the floor for statements, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce my discussion paper distributed as conference room paper 4, entitled "Next Phase in Global Governance for Space Research and Utilization".

Distinguished delegates, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain my paper CRP.4. Please allow me to explain this paper from the podium. I understand that there was no such Chairperson who provides the paper before he takes the Chair. Of course, there were mentioned when they complete their Chairmanships. They produced many excellent papers. I wanted to explain what I am thinking to the delegates. Since most of the delegates may not know what I am thinking, I have been attending this COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and plenary session of the Committee since 2009 for the last two years and I thought I should repeat some of my paper for the understanding of my thoughts to the delegations. I wanted to propose some idea to be discussed at this COPUOS meeting. I am not having any conclusive ideas or proposals but just a

start, a trigger, of our discussions. In my paper, in the preface of this paper, I respected very extensive achievements in the past 15 years this Committee is providing various benefits of space utilization to the benefit of human kind. Last year we had a 50 Years' Declaration of the Committee and this is a very good milestone to have new direction towards the next 50 years.

I propose 3 main ideas for targeting space research utilization in response to the 50 Years' Anniversary Declaration. The one is 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.

Second, to promote dialogue between the Committee and regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms in space activity for the benefit of global development.

Thirdly, to strengthen the delivery of space science and technology and their applications in meeting the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, namely Rio+20.

To promote the role of the Committee and its Subcommittees, we have the various advancements in space research for humanity and we will continue this space researches. The example of our past international cooperation is the United Nations platform space based information disaster management and emergency response (UN-SPIDER) and the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICD). To provide a transparent system to the users, its compatibility and interoperability, including information exchange among different operational systems. Those considerations will be very important to keep our international cooperation.

Promoting long-term space utilization: there are many concerns to proceed our long-term space utilization. We, the Committee, have the role to build a cooperative infrastructure into sustainable and work looking at joint utilization of space and the welcomed process within our intergovernmental forums outside the Committee and we will keep terms of reference and mission of work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space, as a good mechanism for enhanced sharing of information with other similar United Nations entities and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, so I very much look forward to seeing the outcome of the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space.

In addition, other forums, such as the Group of Government Experts on transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities to strengthen closer dialogue for the benefit of long-term space utilization by the international space community.

Under the long-term sustainability of outer space: there are many expert groups that are organized and in future, the regulatory framework based on this, to keep the long-term sustainability of outer space, we might need some discussions about the future regulatory framework. This is treated by Expert Group D at this time.

To promote the dialogue between the Committee and the Mechanisms for regional and interregional cooperation: we have already had many interregional or regional activities around the world, so the Committee should have more intimate relations with those international, intergovernmental and regional activities.

In order to promote capacity-building in developing countries: since the last 50 years, the spacefaring nations have had very great achievements in the space science and technology field. There are many expert people are existing; since the last 50 years there are many people who have worked for this space technology. I think we should consider promoting global knowledge and expertise people to be supported to the advancement of the peaceful use of outer space. It would be very useful to discuss how such expertise could made available, on request, globally.

And certainly, to strengthen the delivery of space science and technology and their applications in meeting the outcome of the United Nations Conference on sustainable development: the next year we will have the side event in Rio de Janeiro concerning about the application of space technology, will contribute the sustainable development of the world. The result of next week's Rio+20 — there will be some outcome from Rio+20 so the Committee should follow up this outcome from Rio+20. Of course, the Committee last year provided the contribution paper "Harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development". We should further promote the space technology application will contribute to the sustainable development. It will take the process leading towards the post-2015 development agenda and review of the Millennium Development Goals. The work on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities should be understood and reflected and shared with other relevant forums and space-related entities.

Of course, currently there are many global concerns — global warming, climate change and food security and further more — there is a need to strengthen international collaboration and the support for data sharing and access to geospatial information to address such climate change, global warming, carbon cycle, water cycle, as well as human health, food security relating to agriculture and fishery, and natural disasters. In conclusion, it is important for the Committee to assess its role in view of the continuously changing environment and surrounding the peaceful uses of outer space. With an increasing number of countries and the private sectors, together with them, to consider future agenda.

Again, these are what I want to discuss during the next two years' term further with you, distinguished delegates and this is my conclusion, so I will discuss with this in a further discussion.

I now come to the list of speakers on this agenda item, "Future role of the Committee". The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Japan. You have the floor.

**Mr. T. YAMAMOTO** (*Japan*) Thank you Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to have the chance to speak on this agenda item.

Recognizing the fundamental role of the Committee for exchanging views and observations on space activities in this past half century, I appreciate the effort of the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Yasushi Horikawa, for developing and distributing a discussion paper numbered A/AC.105/2012/CRP.4, which contains various issues and challenges which are to be tackled by the Committee. I am sure that this paper will be a leading stone for our further discussions regarding the role and opportunity of the Committee in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the all of the delegations to the comprehensiveness of this conference room paper and encourage the further discussions regarding the role and ways that should be taken by the Committee in the next half century. Let me reiterate that Japan is in full-readiness for the discussion and we are looking forward to working on that issue together with the all of Member States. Thank you very much.

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

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

*I see none.*

I recognize the distinguished representative of the United States. You have the floor.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (*United States*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to you for presenting conference room paper 4. We had the opportunity to read through and we think it is an excellent paper and it provides some very good ideas for looking at the future role of the Committee and how the Committee can play an even greater role in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space and international cooperation also associated with the peaceful uses of outer space. Once again, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the initiative that you took and we do note that you as Chair prepared this report before this report before your term began, which we think is also a very good idea and once again, Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the fact that you have presented us with this conference room paper and we will be providing you with further comments in the future. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of the United States of America for his statement. The next speaker, I recognize, the distinguished representative of Nigeria. You have the floor.

**Mr. T. C. BRISIBE** (*Nigeria*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving us the floor. The Nigerian delegation thanks you for your paper on the next phase in global governance for space research and utilization as is detailed in document A/AC.105/2012/CRP.4 and I assure you of our full support in actualizing your vision, which is detailed in this paper. Permit me, Mr. Chairman, at this stage to highlight the fact that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its two subcommittees have promoted international cooperation on peaceful uses of outer space through the elaboration of treaties on principles and resolutions governing outer space activities, which offer an adequate and suitable environment to deliberate on matters that have great impact on the development of nations.

Intensifying the interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee will facilitate a more structured relationship in order to enhance synchronization on the development of space law in line with the scientific

and technical advances in this field of human endeavour. The Nigerian delegation looks forward to working with you in this respect and thank you again for submitting this conference room paper for our deliberation. Thank you, Sir.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria for his very constructive comments.

Are there any other? Yes, I recognize the distinguished representative of Italy. Distinguished representative of Italy, you have the floor.

**Ms. A. PASTORELLI** (*Italy*) Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. My delegation would like to express our appreciation for your initiative with found this paper very constructive and we find this paper, especially fully in line with Italian space policy in respect with COPUOS because we find that you have highlighted the main mandate of COPUOS, which is especially supporting interregional cooperation. We found very constructive approach on highlight the role of COPUOS for the long-term sustainability and we are looking forward to working with you in enhancing and implementing what is been highlighted in your paper. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Italy for your supportive comments.

Next, I recognize the distinguished representative of China. You have the floor.

**Mr. X. MA** (*China, interpretation from Chinese*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving us a presentation which is full of insights. For over five decades, COPUOS has evolved from an 18 member ad hoc Committee into a permanent UN agency composed of 71 member States and leading cooperation in outer space. It has achieved significant results in promoting the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and made contributions to human kind's outer space undertaking.

COPUOS and its two subcommittees provide an important platform for States to extensively exchange views on outer space and benefits all States. At the same time, on historical threshold of a new 50 years, COPUOS is also faced with new evolving situations and challenges. The way that COPUOS plans for its future in line with a new situation, is a concern of all parties. In recent years, all parties have conducted some preliminary discussions on the future role of COPUOS.

The distinguished Ambassador from Colombia, Mr. Yapez and Mr. Chairman, yourself, have expressed your views and opinions. We believe that a discussion of this nature is constructive. The Chinese delegation believes that the development of COPUOS should adhere to the following 3 points:

1. the current legal framework of outer space will be used as a foundation. The current legal framework of outer space represented by the existing 5 UN space treaties place an important role in promoting the peaceful use of outer space, regulating space activities and perfecting the legislation development. It is the basic cardinal principle for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and in carrying out outer space activities. China believes with regard to the new issues emerged in this area, we should adhere to the basic principle of current space law and we should continue to make additions and make constant improvements.

2. We should strengthen the coordination among the coordination within and outside the UN system. At present there is an increasing number of international organizations that are participating in outer space activities, but the United Nations is still the most important international organization dealing with outer space affairs. On one hand, the United Nations should strengthen the coordination among its Member States within the UN. On the other hand, it should actively carry out cooperations with the relevant outer space agencies — outside agencies — so as to promote the creation of synergy with these organizations.

At present, COPUOS should strengthen its coordination with UNCD so as to come up with joint results to the threat and challenges through the weaponization of outer space and the arms race. In 2008, China and Russia jointly sponsored the PPW draft resolution of CD and in that nation's transparency and confidence-building measure intergovernmental group will be put into operation this year. COPUOS should step up its cooperation and contact with CD and TEP and make response to the current challenges for the threat to the security in outer space and sustainable development.

Secondly, the promotion of application of technologies in outer space should be the important target. China has noted UN-SPIDER and ICG and their establishment are important practices in this regard. OOSA has also raised the initiatives of manned space technology and basic science research in space; these have been positively appraised by all parties. China advocates, COPUOS and OOSA should continue this effort and continue the treaty-oriented and the project-oriented international cooperation as its own

responsibility so that more countries will be receiving tangible results, especially more developing countries will receive more tangible results from this.

Mr. Chairman, at present, COPUOS and its two Subcommittees are discussing the long-term sustainable development in outer space and this item is very important for the future development of COPUOS. This development concerns the complicated issue in politics, economy and legal domain. It also concerns the space debris and the issue of nuclear power sources. It is also an issue that is related to space security, as well as the countries with space capability and those countries without these capabilities. It has an impact on the interests of the current generation as well as the succeeding generations. Therefore the participation on a wide scale for our countries is very important for a smooth progress. At present the long-term sustainable development working work under SNT group and the expert groups in their discussions, we find that there is a lack of geographical representation and a small number of experts coming from the developing countries.

The Chinese delegation proposes that the COPUOS and OOSA will provide varied support and help, including financial help to the developing countries — to their experts, so that positive outcomes will be achieved on this item.

The Chinese delegation would like to work with all parties and make joint efforts to promote the bigger role of COPUOS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of China for your comprehensive contribution to the discussion to the role of the Committee.

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 15, “Future role of the Committee”, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, as reflected in the Provisional Agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee (A/AC.105/L.282) the following sub-items are to be considered under this agenda item:

1. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2014-2015

2. Membership of the Committee
3. Observer status
4. Organizational matters
5. Other matters

Distinguished delegates, with regard to the composition of the bureaux for the period 2014-2015, I would like to remind delegations that according to the agreement of the Committee (see A/58/20, annex I, appendix 1 and 2) nominations for the bureaux of the Committee and its Subcommittees for the period 2014-2015 should be made at this present session of the Committee.

According to the established rotation scheme, the nominations by the regional groups should be made as follows: Chair of the Committee: Group of African States; first Vice-Chair of the Committee: Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC); second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee: Group of Asian States; Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: Group of Eastern European States. Chair of the Legal Subcommittee: Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG); the African Group, the Eastern European Group and the Western European and Others Group have already made their respective nominations and the Committee has before it the information about these nominations in conference room papers.

With your permission, I intend to bring up the composition of the bureaux this afternoon.

This morning, I would like to begin our consideration of agenda item 16, “Other matters” by first considering the following sub-items:

- Membership of the Committee
- Observer status with the Committee

Distinguished delegates, with regard to the membership of the Committee, the Committee has before it the applications for membership in this Committee from the following three States: Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan. The official communications have been duly communicated by the Secretariat to all Permanent Missions of member States of the Committee. The Committee has before it for consideration those applications for membership in the Committee in conference room paper 7 for Armenia; conference room paper 6 for Costa Rica; and conference room paper 5 for Jordan.

The Committee will now take action on the application of Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan for membership in the Committee to be recommended for final decision by the General Assembly.

If I see no objections, do I take it that the Committee agrees to recommend to the General Assembly the granting of membership in the Committee of Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan?

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

**Mr. A. HAJIZADA** (*Azerbaijan*) Thank you, very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to congratulate you on your Chairmanship of this session of COPUOS. We also highly appreciate the continued efforts to support the peaceful uses of outer space by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs under the direction of Dr. Mazlan Othman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, we would like to reiterate Azerbaijan's commitment to the uses of outer space for peaceful purposes in the common interest of mankind. Azerbaijan supports development and continued evolution of the rule of law for the peaceful use and exploration of outer space, so as to ensure benefits to all countries. All the member States should be guided in their exploration and use of outer space by application of general international law and, in particular, the United Nations Charter to outer space.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the application of the Republic of Armenia to the membership of COPUOS, let express the position of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the issue. The Republic of Azerbaijan cannot support this candidacy and is against a membership of the Republic of Armenia in COPUOS due to the following reasons: first and foremost, the occupant and aggressor policy of the Republic of Armenia is contrary to the peaceful purposes of the activities in UN-COPUOS. Second, taking into account the conflict-based policy of Armenia, eagerness of this country to gain capabilities and technologies in outer space area, can only raise suspicions among the member States of COPUOS. Thirdly, a wide-range of activities by the Republic of Armenia using various means aimed at preventing and impeding the implementation of the State problems of the Republic of Azerbaijan on peaceful uses of outer space runs contrary to the guiding principles of COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, therefore the candidacy of the Republic of Armenia can only be considered after the

resolution of the above mentioned issues of concern. I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan for his statement. Is there any other delegation wishing to make a statement at this time on this agenda?

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

**Ms. A. BAGHDASARYAN** (*Armenia*) Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving the floor. My Ambassador has elaborated in details in support of my Government's application to this distinguished Committee under agenda item "General exchange of views" thus giving other delegations time to consider our application. A number of achievements were highlighted in that statement, particularly, contemporary space astrophysics developments in Byurakan Observatory, Armenia's valuable contribution in the development of the Soviet Space Science, current studies of the Center for Space Science and Astrophysics and their recent launch of the Laser Relativity Satellite (LARES) in collaboration with the European Space Agency from the Guiana Space Station this year, activities of the Space Environment Viewing and Analysis Network of the Cosmic Ray Division of Yerevan Physics Institute to name a few.

Mr. Chairman, Armenia attaches great importance to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its activities. On behalf of my Government I would like to convey to you the request to accept my country's application for membership. We believe that Armenia, with its capacity in the field of space science and technology, will be able to bring added value to the activities of the Committee. My delegation would highly appreciate the positive response of the members of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to strongly advice and urge the distinguished colleges to concentrate on the issues that are in the scope, mandate and the primary focus of this session.

I find it disingenuous by certain delegations that in addition to this agenda, which as we know is tough enough to realize, to burden around the neck of this committee other political issues. COPUOS was neither designed nor capable nor the proper place to deal with such questions.

My delegation would not like that this platform — this Committee — will be used by other

delegations, mainly with the Azerbaijan delegation, for their political motives. We do not want to — here — to reiterate that the member Azerbaijan, became a member of this Committee to use also this Committee to achieve their goals. So, I would like to call to other members and delegations to consider positively our application. Thanks a lot.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Armenia for her statement. Are there any other comments or statements from the floor?

Distinguished delegates, the Committee will now take action on the application of Costa Rica and Jordan for membership in the Committee to be recommended for final decision by the General Assembly. We will come back to the application of Armenia later.

If I see no objections, do I take it that the Committee agrees to recommend to the General Assembly ... I notice the distinguished representative of Armenia. You have the floor.

**Ms. A. BAGHDASARYAN** (*Armenia*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to really take the time of this distinguished Committee, but there were three member States who applied for membership and my delegation would rather prefer to sit at these three countries and a decision on three countries becoming at the same time. I would really appreciate that other delegations would express their view concerning the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan. Because I want to remind this Committee that this is a technical Committee and Armenia's aspirations to become a member of this Committee is just constructive and to get acquainted with all development and progress in this space sphere. I do not want objections Azerbaijan has, what kind of political motivations they have, but I would really to reiterate that this is a technical Committee and one country, who has another political agenda, should not really burden the agenda of this Committee. So, I would really appreciate that we are taking action on application for membership all together and would like to have also some reactions from other delegations concerning the statement delivered by Azerbaijan. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan.

**Mr. A. HAJIZADA** (*Azerbaijan*) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We have reiterated our position on the application for membership of the Republic of Armenia to the membership of COPUOS. I

am not going to go into the details of the certain point — certain reason — why my country opposed the membership application of the Republic of Armenia, and that our aim is not to politicize the work of the Committee. At the same time, our position is based on the policy conducted by the Republic of Armenia, and that is why we have expressed our opposition to the membership of Armenia to the Committee. I would like, once more to reiterate, that while the policies and activity of Armenia will not be carried in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation, Armenia cannot contribute positively to the activities of outer space area. I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** Since we have a discussion between Armenia and Azerbaijan, this is a final statement to be made by Armenia. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Armenia.

**Ms. A. BAGHDASARYAN** (*Armenia*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess the activities of the Committee over the membership of Armenia will become more interesting because you will always have these responses — Azerbaijan/Armenia — because the country who is sitting in front of the distinguished delegation is just really using their political agenda.

I would like to ask through you the delegation of Azerbaijan to enumerate what activities of the Republic of Armenia, in the field of space science technologies, are really violating the international law and why we cannot really become of member of COPUOS. The delegation of Azerbaijan talks here about a particular conflict about Nagorno-Karabakh conflict — about the war which Azerbaijan launched — Azerbaijan launched a war against the Nagorno-Karabakh population. The conflict deals within another organization OSCE and only this group has mandate to have a solution of the conflict. Why the Committee — this Committee — which has another mandate, another agenda to discuss, with other conflicts and other agendas, which is within another organization. So, I would like Azerbaijan to really enumerate what violations made Armenia in the space science and technology, which is really the great obstacle that Armenia will become a member of this Committee. I would really appreciate that you will ask the delegation of Azerbaijan to respond to my question. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** Now I will give the floor — the last chance to speak at this time — so I will give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Azerbaijan.

**Mr. A. HAJIZADA** (*Azerbaijan*) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my aim is not to waste the time of the distinguished audience of this Committee. As I have enumerated in my statement, what is the reason — reasons — of my country's opposition to the membership of Armenia. I would like to reiterate once more: the policy of the Republic of Armenia conducted in the region, especially against my country and the occupation of the territories of my country. I am not going into the details of this issue, but numerous times, even by the Security Council resolutions and the more recent Ministerial decision held in Egypt — I am not going into the details of this issue. At the same time I would like to note that the policy of the Republic of Armenia and the non-recognition of international law principles at the same time — the Charter of the United Nations — which are the basis for activities in outer space also. At the same time, the eagerness of this country to gain capabilities and technologies in outer space affairs raises suspicion in my country. The activities of Armenian interest groups and of using various means aimed at preventing and impeding the implementation of my country's activities in outer space, and at the same time the State problems in outer space is against the guiding principles of COPUOS and with this I would like to stress that my country will not be ready to support the membership of Armenia in COPUOS. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan for his statement. I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Argentina. You have the floor.

**Ms. G. HUARTE** (*Argentina*) Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman allow me to express on behalf of the Group of 77 and China my warm congratulations to you and your election, as well as to the other members of the bureau, to conduct the proceedings of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space — 55th session. I assure you the full support of the Group on your task. Let me also express our gratitude to the secretariat for the preparation of this meeting and for making the documents available.

Mr. Chairman, the Group of 77 and China would like to express its full support to the request for admission presented by Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan to be part of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This request showed the increasing awareness on the potential importance and impact that space activities have today in our countries. Thank you very much.

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

Distinguished delegates, thank you for your patience. We have various statements from the delegations and I would now like to take the action on the application of Costa Rica and Jordan for membership in the Committee to be recommended for final decision by the General Assembly. Since we want to have some more time to discuss about the application of Armenia, later, or this afternoon, I mean. So, we will come back to the Armenia application, to be discussed this afternoon.

Do I take this action? Are there any...yes, distinguished representative of the United States of America. You have the floor.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (*United States*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your efforts to move forward, but I would like clarification from the Secretariat in terms of our past practice for membership. If I recall, typically membership is considered as a package to represent the equitable geographic representation. I note that some regional groups have not nominated candidates for this round of membership expansion, but I think if we look at past practice, we typically have taken up a membership as a whole and not selectively. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, whether we want to deviate from that practice this time or not. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you distinguished representative of the United States of America for your statement. I will ask the Secretariat to clarify this.

**Mr. N. HEDMAN** (*Secretary*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is true that when it comes to membership of the Committee, that of course the Committee seeks to have a geographical distribution or representation of its new coming members. In that sense, the distinguished delegate of the United States is correct. There is nothing, of course, that prevents the Committee for taking action on — since we have three applications — to take action on two of them and wait a little while with the third one. I am just asking the Chair that, of course, if there is a wish of the Committee to take up all three applications that we before us: Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan, in one package and come back to this later in the afternoon, it is of course, for the Committee to say so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you Mr. Hedman for your explanation. Do I have any comments?

I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

**Mr. R. BECERA** (*Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you, Chairman, I will be very brief. This delegation believes that, if we wish to be fair, and respect the right to equality, we should receive the three delegations as a package. We should make no distinction now. We should wait until this afternoon and when the Committee decides to put as a whole package, I do not think we should split decisions. I do not think it would be the best thing for the work of COPUOS now. Thank you.

**Unknown speaker** (*unknown*) This delegation ...

**The CHAIRMAN** Yes, I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan now.

**Mr. A. HAJIZADA** (*Azerbaijan*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to note that the application for membership of Jordan, Costa Rica and Armenia are given separately and not within the regional groups and none of these countries — at least Armenia — have not been presented by their regional group. That is why we are against this decision to look at the memberships as a package, as those countries were given the application separately.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan for his statement. The last intervention from the distinguished representative of Venezuela, you have the floor.

**Mr. R. BECERA** (*Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, Chairman. I just would like to recall that G-77 and China has just given its support to Armenia. I understand that G-77 is not a regional group, but in its composition there are several regional groups, there is the African Group, the Asian countries and Latin American countries. So the support is fairly comprehensive. A large group of States do seem to be in favour of Armenia. I think the best thing is to consider the admission of these three countries together as a package. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you to the distinguished representative of Venezuela for your statement. Since time is running, I would like to defer this application decision until this afternoon as a package of Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan to be taken action to the General Assembly.

*It is so decided.*

We will continue this agenda item this afternoon, so you will make the statement this afternoon.

**Mr. A. HAJIZADA** (*Azerbaijan*) Mr. Chairman, let express my position. Please, I would like to kindly ask to void the rules of our Committee and as I clearly mentioned that G-77 is not a regional group and it cannot propose a candidacy. If the candidacy of Armenia has not been proposed by a regional group, it does matter — if it might be supported by a regional group and if it is not supported. There is no consensus on the membership. It cannot be referred as a package decision and the application of the membership of Armenia cannot be considered positively and we should proceed with the consideration of application of membership of Costa Rica and Jordan. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan. We differ this agenda this afternoon.

Now, distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed with the application for permanent observer status with the Committee. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2012, noted the application for permanent observer status with the Committee of the following international non-governmental organizations:

Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (A/AC.105/1001, para. 9, and A/AC.105/1003, para. 12); and the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation (A/AC.105/1003, para. 12).

The Committee now has before it for consideration those applications for permanent observer status with the Committee. The applications have been presented to the Committee in conference room papers 8 and 9.

If I see no objections, do I take it that the Committee agrees to grant permanent observer status of the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) and the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation?

*It is so decided.*

I noted that the Ibero-American Institute has a request to make a brief statement. I will give the floor to the Ibero-American Institute. You have the floor.

**Mr. J. APARICIO GALLEGO** (*on behalf of the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much delegates.

I have prepared a presentation of what the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation Law, but having seen your work I realize that I do not need to make that statement any more. I would like to just say thank you and say that our institute would like to cooperate with the Committee and its two Subcommittees, so that we can participate as permanent observers in the development of these activities, which are always beneficial to the whole of humanity, which is one of the aims of my institute, too. There is a document that we delivered this morning that covers the space activities of the institute. In this way, you can get to know us a bit better by looking at this document and I think that you will realize that your decision is fair, given the multiple activities in which we are involved. Thank you Chairman, thank you delegates and, of course, we are at your disposal for any clarifications or cooperation. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of the Ibero-American Institute. Now I have a request from SCOSTEP. You have the floor.

**Ms. M. SHEPHERD** (*on behalf of SCOSTEP*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Distinguished representatives. On behalf of SCOSTEP and the SCOSTEP Community, I would like to thank everybody for accepting us in COPUOS and I would like to assure you that SCOSTEP and its Community will work very hard and will do our best to serve the mandate of COPUOS for the peaceful exploration of outer space. Thank you very much, again.

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

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed with our consideration on organizational matters. Delegations will recall that matters relating to organization of work are reflected in our last year's report and in the respective reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee on their sessions earlier this year.

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

*I see none.*

We will therefor continue our consideration of agenda item 16, "Other matters" this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed with the technical presentations. Presenters are kindly reminded that technical presentations should be limited to 15 minutes in length.

The first presentation on my list is by Mr. Tohru Hada of Japan, entitled "Establishment of the International Center for Space Weather Science and Education at Kyushu University, Japan". Mr. Hada, you have the floor.

**Mr. T. HADA** (*Technical presentation*) Thank you very much, Chairman. I will be introducing the establishment of the International centre for Space Weather Science and Education of Kyushu University.

The Space Environment Research centre (SERC) of Kyushu University was re-organized on the first of April 12 of 2012. On that date it became the "International centre for Space Weather Science and Education". The purpose for this re-organization is to allow space weather research to continue on a more global basis, and to establish a permanent international institution — centre — for space weather science and education that is consistent with the goals of the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI).

SERC — the centre — was originally established in 2002 with the mission to perform the basic research necessary to turn into reality an early warning system for space weather irregularities and for space debris problems. The roles of SERC are the creation of interdisciplinary geospace environmental science and basic research of space weather forecast and space debris warning.

In the opening, the centre was composed of 4 divisions: the Geospace environment observation Lab.; the Geospace experimental simulation Lab.; the Integrated data analysis Lab.; and the Geospace hazard simulation Labs.

Each Lab developed many research topics for example, observations of the electromagnetic field of space and the earth via the MAGDAS/CPMN network, modelling of space debris environmental change, the polar plasma observation satellite, super high density

plasma measurement, multi-dimensional mathematical analysis, simulation of the geospace environment, application of statistical learning theory for analysing solar and the earth surface images and Evolution of MHD turbulence in the solar wind.

The centre contributed in many ways to the area of space environmental monitoring and the area of space debris research.

Here in this slide we show a numerical simulation of the debris distribution and also the collaboration between JAXA and the centre for the research of space debris programme.

SERC, the centre, has also developed the real time magnetic data acquisition system (the MAGDAS project) around the world for space environmental monitoring. The observational sites are increasing every year with collaboration of MAGDAS host countries. Now at this time, the MAGDAS Project has installed 64 real time magnetometers — so it is the largest magnetometer array in the world.

To develop such global observational array, international collaborations are indispensable. SERC and MAGDAS hosts (in 32 nations) cultured good relations for installation, maintenance, and operation of network observations. SERC also focuses on the enhancement of partnership between MAGDAS hosts. Autonomous association was established by Africa MAGDAS hosts in August 2011. SERC envisions the establishment of a long-term partnership between the Japanese coordinator and host countries by setting up an association of MAGDAS hosts.

SERC also contributes to many international space science projects, such as ULTIMA, IHY and ISWL. In fact, the centre has been chairing ULTIMA for several years.

SERC not only focuses on research activity but also contributes to Space weather science education. Since 2002, students at SERC everyday produce space weather summary reports, which is very effective for graduate student to understand the Space weather phenomena. SERC also held over 50 public lectures on Space weather science for children and general citizen. SERC accepted foreign graduate students from Asian, African nations (mainly from MAGDAS host institutes). Now we have 6 Ph.D. students:

SERC also held the international school as a part of ISWI activities. The ISWI/MAGDAS School was held at August 2001 in Lagos, Nigeria. A 264-page textbook entitled, “Selected Papers of

MAGDAS” was published prior to the School, containing MAGDAS-related papers that had been published in peer-reviewed journals. Sixty participants, of whom 8 were instructors, mainly from Kyushu University, remaining participants from MAGDAS African host and Nigerian students. ISWI/MAGDAS school to be held in Indonesia in 2012, Côte d’Ivoire in 2013 and Japan in 2014, with the support of JSPS Core to Core Programme the Asia-Africa Science Platform Programme.

As just described SERC has been contributing to research and monitoring of geospace environment and international outreach education with good international collaborations. However, in recent years, the focus of concern in the field of space weather has shifted more towards:

1. Direct effects of solar activity, and
2. Issues regarding the long-term presence of humans in space.

These issues include radiation concerns and mental health issues. The new centre aims to keep up-to-date with these new trends. In addition, there is a strong request from the ISWI community for SERC of Kyushu University to take a lead role in institutionalizing ISWI into a more permanent entity in the “Abuja ISWI Resolution” which was unanimously approved by the participants of the “UN/Nigeria Workshop on ISWI”. Perhaps with the aim of making it affiliated with the United Nations in the future. The new centre is well-placed to achieve this because of the strong human network created by the MAGDAS Project and its associated Magnetometer Data Archives

On February 2012 our Kyushu University decided to reorganize SERC to the new centre for further development of Space weather Science and for the establishment of the international center for Space weather education consistent with the goals of the ISWI, which is conducted under a mandate of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The agenda for the new center is therefore:

1. to provide the basic knowledge that will help humans work in space;
2. to create the foundations of Space Weather Study, Geospace Science, and Space Terrestrial Study; and
3. to explore the synergy of space science, space engineering, and space medicine.

In this way, the new center can also assist in the capacity-building of young researchers in the world consistent with ISWI activities.

The new centre — ICSWSE — will engage in the following: enlarge the scope of its space weather research; conduct more detailed investigation of the links between geospace changes, climate changes, and natural disasters; start new research in the biomedical aspects of geospace; evolve internationally as the Center for Space Weather Science and Education consistent with the Abuja ISWI resolution (A/AC.105/1018: IV).

The term “capacity-building” means training the young scientists who want to study about space weather science and take care of MAGDAS magnetometers so that there is mutual benefit between instrument providers and instrument hosts. This training has three main components: training on the instrumentation (maintenance and installation); training on data analysis (how to process the data from the instrumentation); and instruction on how to do science with the acquired data, with an emphasis on doing science particular to the region of the instrument site.

The ISWI/MAGDAS Schools are especially effective for conducting capacity building, and helps not only the host students and scientists but also improves the skills of the Japanese researchers who are dispatched as school instructors. Interaction with various hosts allows their most talented people to consider further study at Kyushu University at the graduate school level, thereby expanding the aforementioned human network.

The new ICSWSE will conduct ISWI activity for young scientists in Japan and in the world through a wide-variety of approaches:

1. conducting overseas ISWI/MAGDAS Schools;
2. implementing student exchanges;
3. installing ground magnetometers (e.g., MAGDAS) in “missing areas”; and bringing students who want to study space weather science at Japanese universities.

Through this myriad of approaches, a human network for space weather research is established.

To allow for easy pronunciation, the short name of the Center is “iku-sei”, which means “to nurture” in Japanese. Through various research initiatives — for example collaboration with foreign researchers, data-collection initiatives — for example, the MAGDAS Project, and education initiatives — for example MAGDAS Schools, it can be expected that

the new center will contribute to space weather capacity-building cooperation with COPUOS and other space weather science related institutes in the world. Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you Professor Hada for your presentation. Is there any delegate who has questions for the presenter? No comments or questions.

I thank you for your successful deployment of space weather science education around the world. Thank you for your presentation.

The final presentation we will hear this morning is by Mr. V. Koteswara Rao of India on “Megha-Tropiques”.

**Mr. V. KOTESWARA RAO** (*Technical presentation*) Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Indian delegation I would like to present Megha-Tropiques, a project which is a fine example of collaboration between two spacefaring nations, India and France, for the peaceful uses of outer space.

“Megha” in Sanskrit, one of the Indian languages, means “clouds”, and “Tropiques” in French is “tropics”. Combining these two, the name of this project is Megha-Tropiques.

The science instruments, which we call payloads, on this project, are realized by ISRO and CNES; the spacecraft built by ISRO and it was launched by ISRO’s polar synchronized launch vehicle, C18, on 12 of October 2011. The spacecraft control and operations by ISRO are done by the Bangalore station. They are run effectively to date, and the science data reception is by ISRO and CNES at two ground stations located at respective places. Data products generation is done by ISRO.

The objectives of this mission are:

- To collect a long-term set of measurements with a good sampling and coverage over Tropical latitudes — that is up 20° latitude — to understand better the processes related to tropical convective systems and their life cycle.
- To improve the determination of atmospheric energy and water budget in the tropical area at various time and space scales.
- To study tropical climatic events and their predictability: droughts, monsoon variability, floods and tropical cyclones.

The project, per se, is at an inclination of 20°; this is to facilitate the properties of tropical regions and this has got a large swath ranging from 1,700 km to 2,200 km, depending on the latitude. With the repetivity of 6 times a day over 10°-20° latitude and four times at many other latitudes. There are four measurement instruments — a large number of climate/atmospheric parameters from a common platform — are measured using these instruments.

One of the instruments is a microwave analysis and detection of rain and atmospheric structure; it is a radiometer imager with 5 frequencies, 9 channels in the microwave imager, and this measures wind speed, total water vapour, cloud liquid water, rainfall and cloud ice. This instrument was jointly built by ISRO and CNES.

The other one is a sounder for the atmospheric profiling of humidity in the inter-tropical regions. This has got 6 channels with a water vapour resonance frequency at 183 GHz. This measures humidity profiling at 6 altitudes. This is built by CNES.

There is a radiation budget scanner, with a 4-channel radiometer for measuring long-wave radiation fluxes. This instrument was also built by CNES.

And there is an atmospheric sounder for atmospheric studies called ROSA. It is a radio frequency sounder at L1 and L2 bands to measure the temperature and humidity profiles. This was procured by ISRO from Italy.

This picture shows the spectrum of the oxygen and water vapour and their corresponding band selection of the radio and instruments, which are of importance for, particularly, for vapour measurement. The parameters measured with these instruments are cloud condensed water content, cloud ice content, convective-stratiform cloud discrimination, rain rate, latent heat release, integrated water vapour content, profile of water vapour content, radiative fluxes at the top of the atmosphere and sea surface wind.

These are some of the pictures showing the payload integrated to the spacecraft. This is the thermo-vac testing of the entire spacecraft. This is the entire spacecraft in cleanroom and the solar panels not yet assembled. This is, again, a thermo-vac test.

Let me present some of the early results, which are of course have to be validated by the responsible investigators. These are early pictures after the launch of — one week after the launch. These are from the radio imager on 18 October, which were taken first one

shows the total precipitable water in grads per centimetre square. The second one shows the wind speed of the oceans and the other one, which is the cloud liquid content. These other ones are humidity profile of layers average relative humidity, measured with the sounder. One interesting features is that we have the formation of a cyclone in the Indian Ocean, called Thane cyclone, and using this Megha-Tropiques data, we could see the formation of the cyclone — the top two pictures on different dates — the 27 to 30 — in three days — although the cyclone has moved — which is in close confirmation with one of our meteorological satellites, Kalpana, in the composite picture you see. The formation is quiet clear and we are confident that in this way other tropical cyclones could also be monitored using this data.

The global outreach, what we are planning is, other than this scientific community of India and France, there are 21 scientific teams from various countries, from Australia, Brazil, Italy, Japan, Korea, Niger, Sweden, UK and USA. There are also using the initial data for research purpose under International Announcement of Opportunity. EUMESAT will get access to the Megha-Tropiques data and data from Megha-Tropiques would contribute to global precipitation measurements coordinated by NASA, as the first satellite of the eight-satellite constellation.

On this picture, it is just to show that there two ground stations with [...] Bangalore from India and the other one is at Kourou for CNES and its hoped that data is distributed from these two agencies. With data dissemination we have a plan that data from the three payloads are going to be released in a couple of days for all the principal investigators and the fourth one from MADRAS will be released in another month, that is July 15. The validation is likely to take place somewhere between 6 to 7 months. By the end of January 15, 2013, all the data validation will be over. Accordingly, we are planning an Indo-French workshop in the middle of December 2012 and an international conference in mid-2013. I request all the delegates here to participate in these two workshops. Thank you for your kind attention. Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you Mr. V. Koteswara Rao for your presentation. Is there any delegate who has a question for the presenter? No questions? I thank the distinguished representative of India for your presentation and I am sure the Megha-Tropiques will contribute to worldwide weather forecast and constellation for future climate change observation. Thank you very much.

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

We will meet promptly at 3.00 pm. At that time, we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 8, "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session" that we have suspended, pending a statement by the Chair of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects. We will continue our consideration of agenda item 14, "Use of space technology in the United Nations system", agenda item 15, "Future role of the Committee", and agenda item 16, "Other matters".

There are no technical presentations scheduled for this afternoon.

I would again like to remind delegates that after the conclusion of the morning meeting, the Chair of the Working Group on Long-term sustainability of outer space activities will hold an informal briefing for all delegations on the activities of the Working Group on the Long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and its expert groups. The briefing will be held in this conference room, immediately following the plenary.

Also, during lunch time today, at 2.40 p.m., in this conference room, there will be a screening of a video entitled "JAXA 2011-2012: Beyond the Sky and into Space", which is 14 minutes in length. Delegations are cordially invited to the screening of this video by Japan.

I would further like to inform delegates on the following meetings taking place during lunch time today:

- A planning meeting for the Graz Symposium will be held from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. in the room MOE19.
- Informal consultations with the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee's Working Group on National Space Legislation will take place from 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. in room MOE27.
- The meeting of the European Union will be held at 13:00, one o'clock, in room MOE15.
- 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 meet from 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. in the meeting room MOE100.

Sorry, the meeting of the European Union will be held at 13.45 in room MOE15.

- The Action Team on Near Earth Objects will hold its fourth meeting from 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., in room MOE27.

Are there any questions to this proposed schedule?

*I see none.*

I am sorry, I have an announcement for the delegations. Distinguished delegates, I would like remind delegations that the provisional list of participants was distributed to delegations as conference room paper 2. Delegations are kindly asked to provide any final amendments to the list at the earliest convenience, so that the secretariat can finalize the list.

I have a request from the distinguished representative of the United States of America. You have the floor.

**Mr. J. HIGGINS** (*United States*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to those meetings and room assignments for a moment, I believe you said that the chairman of the working group from the LSC was going to meet with interested representatives between 2 and 3 p.m. in MOE27, then also announced that action team 14 was in the same room, MOE27 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., so I think we have a conflict there. Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN** I thank the distinguished representative of the United States of America for your reminder. I will give the floor to the secretariat for this.

**Mr. N. HEDMAN** (*Secretariat*) Thank you Mr. Chairman and sorry for this confusion. Yes, what will happen in MOE27 is as follows: the informal consultations with the chair of the working group of national space legislations will take place between 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock in MOE27 and the action team fourth meeting will take place in MOE27 from 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN** Thank you Mr. Niklas for your clarification.

Is there any other question to the proposed schedule?

*I see none.*

*This meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m.*