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

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644th Meeting
Wednesday, 6 June 2012, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu (Romania)

The meeting was called to order at 10.08 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN Distinguished delegates, please be seated. We have to start the session. Good morning excellences, distinguished delegate and representatives. I am pleased to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and now declare open the 55th session and 644th meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all aware, the Committee will shortly elect its Chair for a two-year term in accordance with the agreement reached at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee. With the Committee's permission, I will continue to preside over this meeting until the new Chair has been duly elected, at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair.

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

You have before you, for your approval and adoption, the Provisional Agenda for the session, contained in document A/AC.105/L.282. This provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreements reached at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee in 2011, and it was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/71 of 9 December 2011.

An indicative schedule of work is set out in the Annex to the Provisional Agenda. Please note that the annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda for adoption by the Committee, and are included only to assist delegations. We should now proceed with the adoption of the agenda itself.

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

It is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to turn to agenda item 3, "Election of officers". I wish to inform delegations that in paragraph 26 of resolution 66/71 of 9 December 2011, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and their respective sessions in 2012 should elect their officers nominated for the period 2012-2013.

At the 44th session the Committee agreed that Yasushi Horikawa of Japan, Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal and Piotr Wolanski of Poland would be elected to the offices of Chair, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2012-2013.

At the forty-ninth session of this year, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee elected Félix Clementino Menicocci of Argentina as Chair of the Subcommittee for a two-year term of office.

At its 51st session of this year, the Legal Subcommittee elected Tare Charles Brisibe of Nigeria as Chair of the Subcommittee for a two-year term of office.

May I take it that the Committee endorses the election of officers of its Subcommittees for the period 2012-2013? I see no objections.

It is so decided.

Unless there is any objection, may I take it that the Committee would wish to elect Mr. Yasushi Horikawa as its Chair for a two-year term starting from this session? I see no objections.

It is so decided.

I warmly congratulate Mr. Yasushi Horikawa on his election. Before I invite my dear colleague to assume the Chair, allow me just to make a few remarks as the out-going Chair of the Committee.

Over the last two years I had the privilege to serve this Committee as your Chair, together with my First-Vice Chair Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja and Second-Vice Chair/Rapporteur Mr. Raimundo Gonzalez. To work with you, distinguished delegates, was very rewarding and I am pleased to note that we together made significant progress in our work in a consensual manner.

Last year, in 2011, we held a high-level commemorative segment on the first day of the session devoted to the 50th anniversary of human space flight and the 50th anniversary of the Committee. Special attention was paid to the first human space flight performed by Yuri Gagarin in 1961, and we celebrated the progress made in human space flight, space exploration, space science and technology applications, space law development, and the outstanding role of our Committee in these areas. We also finalized our contribution to the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Later in the year the General Assembly adopted the 50th Anniversary Declaration, manifesting our common efforts over the past fifty years.

Furthermore, certain organizational measures were taken to keep up with the high standard of information exchange and deliberations in the Committee and its Subcommittees. Progress and improvement in our common work would not be possible without the excellent support and guidance of the Secretariat during our sessions. I would therefore, together with my bureaux colleagues, like to express my deep appreciation to the Secretariat for all your effort and dedication.

Distinguished delegates, thank you for your confidence. I would like now to invite Mr. Yasushi Horikawa to assume the Chair. Thank you.

Mr. Y. HORIKAWA (*Incoming Chair*)
Excellences, distinguished delegates and representatives. I would like to thank all member States of the Committee for electing me for the post of Chair of the Committee for the period 2012-2013, and for the confidence that you have placed in me in furthering the work of the Committee. I would like to assure you of my commitment to the work of the Committee.

I am honoured to assume this important function, which was successfully fulfilled by my predecessor, Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu, and his bureaux members Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa and Mr. Raimundo Gonzalez of Chile, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to the election of the other officers of the Committee, namely the First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur for the period 2012-2013.

Unless there are any objections, may I take it that the Committee elects Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal as First Vice-Chair, and Piotr Wolanski of Poland as Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee, for the two-year term, starting from this session? Do I see any objections? I see no objections.

It is so decided.

I extend my warmest congratulations on their election and invite them to take their seats at the podium.

I would like to inform the Committee that I have received requests from the following delegations seeking permission to attend the current session of the Committee as observers: the Governments of Armenia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Holy See, Israel, Jordan, Luxembourg, Oman, Panama, United Arab Emirates and Angola. And the following organizations: European Union, the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), and the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation.

I would therefore like to suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations and observers to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate.

There is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decisions of the Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy that we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

It is so decided.

I would also like to inform the Committee of the applications by Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan to become members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The official communications have been duly communicated by the Secretariat to all Permanent Missions of member States of the Committee. Delegations will have before them the respective applications in the form of conference room papers. I would also like to inform the Committee that

applications for permanent observer status with the Committee have been made by the following international non-governmental organizations: the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) and the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation. Conference room papers are being made available containing all documentation presented in support of the applications of these organizations.

The Committee will take action on these requests and under agenda item 16: "Other matter" next week.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to look move on to the next item in the agenda and present my statement to the Committee.

Excellences, distinguished delegates and representatives, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the fifty-fifth session of the Committee. I am honoured to have been elected Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I thank you all for your confidence in me, and I assure you of my commitment to continuing the successful work of the Committee.

Together with my colleagues in the bureaux, Mr. Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal and Mr. Piotr Wolanski of Poland, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu, who skilfully guided the work of the Committee for the past two years together with his bureaux members for that period, Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa and Mr. Raimundo Gonzales of Chile.

I am pleased to see all of you coming from different parts of the world to participate in, as well as contribute to, the deliberations of the Committee. This year I have the honour of welcoming and congratulating Azerbaijan as a new member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I also have the pleasure of welcoming a new permanent observer to the Committee, the Association of Remote Sensing Centres of the Arab World (ARSCAW).

At the outset, I would also like to congratulate Jordan for having inaugurated last week the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, affiliated to the United Nations, and located in Amman.

Distinguished delegates, our Committee has for many decades made extraordinary achievements in advancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and is continuously serving as a

unique platform at the global level in fostering such common efforts. Last year, in 2011, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of human space flight, commemorating the first human space flight, and the 50th anniversary of the Committee. Later that year, the General Assembly adopted the 50th Anniversary Declaration commemorating important milestones in human space flight, space exploration and science, and the establishment of the legal regime governing outer space activities. The Declaration also brings to the highest recognition the achievements of our Committee and its subsidiary bodies over the past 50 years and calls to attention important perspectives for the future. By these anniversaries we together shed light on the extraordinary development in space activities.

Commemorations of this nature truly bring forward the importance of space exploration, science, technology applications and diplomacy. To this end, I would like to recall other recent events where essential milestones in our work have been recorded: In 2007 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth Satellite, Sputnik 1, the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty, and the 50th commemoration of the International Geophysical Year. In 2009 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first human landing on the Moon. We also celebrated the 10th anniversary of UNISPACE III.

This year at this present session of the Committee we commemorate the 40 anniversary of the Landsat programme and the worldwide evolution of remote sensing from space, which is timely considering the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Next year, in 2013 we should acknowledge the 50th anniversary of women in human space flight by commemorating the first space-flight performed by a woman, cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, on 16 June 1963. We should use that opportunity to look into the broader contribution of women in advancing space science and technology development.

There are other milestones being acknowledged by the Committee. For example in 2011 it was thirty years since the first flight of the space shuttle Columbia, and next year it will be fifteen years since the launch of the first element of the International Space Station. Observations of this nature continuously bring into light the development in space science and technology.

Distinguished delegates, anniversaries like those I have outlined above are catalysts of the

importance we give our common endeavours. Space exploration and advances in space science and research are fundamental pillars for the operational use of space technology and its applications. Research and development in space science and technology is a fundamental prerequisite for any space application for the benefit of human development on Earth, for protecting and preserving the Earth and our space environment, and in any exploration efforts in the Universe, and our Committee stands at the front in bringing the World together in using that technology for peaceful purposes.

To meet those objectives, the Committee has continuously made efforts to promote and increase awareness and capacity-building in the use of space technology applications at the global, regional, interregional and national level, in many critical areas of concern to all humanity. Space tools are multifaceted and they strongly support the implementation of actions called for in the global development agenda.

At the same time we are facing major challenges to humanity. Disasters continuously hit our societies in all parts of the World and demonstrate over and over again how vulnerable we are against the forces of nature and how important it is to build capacities to mitigate the devastating effects of disasters.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all countries for the incredible help, donations and warm condolence conveyed to the victims of Japan after the great east Japan earthquake and tsunami. This was a tremendous tragedy for Japan. We are now recovering day by day thanks to the support of so many countries. We have come to recognize that the loss of life and property could have been reduced with better preventative measures. Allow me to convey my deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of all countries affected by recent natural disasters that have taken so many lives and caused so much damage.

Loss of life and property could be diminished if better information were available through improved risk assessment, early warning and monitoring of disasters. In that regard, the integrated and coordinated use of space technologies and their applications can play a crucial role in supporting disaster management by providing accurate and timely information and communication support.

Challenges to our societies, including that of global climate change, and to food security and global

health, are all interlinked with disasters, and we need a holistic approach to those problems and concerns in order to make sound long-term decisions. Meeting those challenges would be facilitated if efforts for an increased coordination are made to ensure a timely and adapted integration of the space-based technology applications of remote sensing, satellite telecommunication and global navigation satellite systems to multi-source geospatial datasets.

Last year the Committee prepared its contribution to the Rio+20 Conference on the topic of harnessing the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development. As we are approaching the Conference we should make efforts in meeting the outcome of Rio+20 and at the same time start looking ahead and towards the post 2015 development agenda and review of the Millennium Development Goals.

Distinguished delegates, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee made considerable achievements this year and through the work of our two Subcommittees we are demonstrating the importance of making concrete progress in terms of long-term sustainability of outer space activities and in enhancing the capacity of States in promoting economic, social and cultural development with the use of space tools, and by enhancing the understanding of regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect.

I would in particular like to congratulate Mr. Felix Clementino Menicocci of Argentina and Mr. Tare Charles Brisibe of Nigeria on their skilful guidance of the work of the Subcommittees. Likewise, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. S. K. Shivakumar of India, Mr. Sam Harbison of the United Kingdom, Mr. Peter Martinez of South Africa, Mr. Sergio Camacho of Mexico, Mr. Jose Monserrat Filho of Brazil, Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria and Mr. Jean-François Mayence of Belgium for their excellent leadership this year of the respective Working Groups of the Subcommittees.

Many other experts in science, law and policy have over the years offered their skills and time to guide our Committee and Subcommittees in the processes leading to concrete results. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all of them for their extraordinary contributions in advancing our common endeavour to continuously manifest the unique role played by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Distinguished delegates, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has an outstanding role in our work as

the substantive Secretariat to our intergovernmental bodies and through other areas of work. I am pleased to note the activities being undertaken by the Office in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of ICG, and the progress made in the implementation of the plan of work of UN-SPIDER. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications continues to play an important role in improving capacity in many areas of importance to our work. How to successfully build capacity in space law is a key area of the Legal Subcommittee. Education, research and development, and dissemination of information are necessary to enhance capacity in this field and I am pleased to note the continuous commitment and efforts of the Office in this regard.

Distinguished delegates, the role of international organizations and other entities in the space field continue to be of major importance to our common endeavour to promote space activities at the national, regional, interregional and global level. I would like to underline the particular role of regional mechanisms in providing platforms for enhanced coordination and cooperation between space faring nations and emerging space nations and in establishing partnerships between users and providers of space-based services. In this regard I am pleased to note the activities, programmes, projects and strategies being performed and developed through the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (ALC); the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF); the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO); and the Space Conference of the Americas.

In this context, I would also like to highlight the important role that the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations, play in enhancing cooperative efforts. The Regional Centres have firmly established infrastructures for advanced training in the field of space science and technology, and their long-standing education programmes are highly successful. Likewise, the network of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices around the World caters for regional coordination efforts in the area of disaster risk reduction.

We gain invaluable support by many other efforts and through support given to the Committee and its Subcommittees by our permanent observer organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, in cooperation with our members, through projects, conferences, seminars, symposiums and panel discussions for the benefit of our common work.

The International Astronautical Congress (IAC), which provides a fundamental dialogue between all stakeholders in the space field, both at Governmental and private sector level, was last year successfully hosted by South Africa. I look forward to this year's IAC to be hosted by Italy.

With all this in mind, we should look into further promoting greater dialogue between our Committee and mechanisms for regional and interregional cooperation in space activities for the benefit of global development and in partnership with various actors in the space arena.

Distinguished delegates, it is important for our Committee as a whole to continue assessing its role and its work in view of the continuously changing environment that surrounds the peaceful uses of outer space and to look into ways and means of advancing our work and achieve concrete and tangible results. I therefore provide you at this session with a discussion paper in CRP.4 on "Next Phase in Global Governance for Space Research and Utilization" containing some ideas and suggestions I have in response to the 50th Anniversary Declaration. I hope these reflections will stimulate thought and discussion on various cross-cutting issues under our overall agenda.

We have a hectic programme before us at this session, and we have a series of exciting side events, side meetings, seminars and receptions that will give us all an outstanding platform for dialogue on important topics before us. With your cooperation and valuable contributions, I am confident in the success of this session.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

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

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

I would like to inform you of the arrangements made for this session of this Committee: Assigned conference/meeting rooms: Conference Room M1, M7, MOE100, MOE13, MOE15, MOE16, MOE18, MOE19, MOE27, and EO953; simultaneous interpretation: Arabic, Chinese, English, French,

Russian and Spanish; and sound recording will be provided for the plenary meetings in the original language and in English.

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

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, namely, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., on working days; and

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

In addition to the above, financial and capacity constraints in Conference Services coincide with a trend of increasing demand for both meeting and documentation services. The existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload. There is a need to adhere strictly to guidelines on providing interpretation, meeting and documentation services.

In particular, ad hoc meetings, informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours, or on non-working days will not be serviced. The Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficiency measures, such as increased outsourcing, fully electronic document processing, reduced overtime and night-shift and intensive editorial report drafting assistance.

Therefore, close coordination and cooperation between delegations, the substantive secretariat and Conference Services is even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Services will do their best to deliver to us, as they did in the past. With timely submission of in-session documentation, they will deliver as much documentation in all six official languages as possible. However, due to the constraints already mentioned, some documentation may only be available for the afternoon closing session unedited or in English only, depending on how late it was submitted for processing. On your behalf I would like to assure the Secretariat that they can count on the usual good cooperation and understanding of delegations in keeping submission deadlines. I trust that with that, we will bring this session to a successful closing.

I would also like to remind delegates of the General Assembly's request to cut down on the length

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

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

Distinguished delegates, all delegations have been provided this morning with a draft list of the scheduling of technical presentations during this session of the Committee. In accordance with the decision of the Committee at its 54th session in June 2011, and stated under section 16, subsection "Organizational matters" of the annotative agenda in document A/AC.105/L.282, the list of scheduling of technical presentations will close by the adjournment of our plenary meeting tomorrow afternoon. Delegations should provide the Secretariat with any up-to-date to that list by no later than 5 p.m. tomorrow. I would like to also remind delegations that speaking notes for technical presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation. Distinguished delegates, I would like to bring to your attention that, in accordance with the terms of reference and method of work of the working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and was agreed by the working group at the 49th session of the Subcommittee, the four expert groups of the working group will be meeting on the margins of this Committee session. A list of scheduling of these meetings has been circulated in the pigeon holes. That list is also made available on the webpage dedicated to the working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The meeting will also be announced each day and on the monitors in the building. Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of item 5 of our agenda: General exchange of views. As a general guideline, statements under this item should last no longer than 10 minutes. The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC.

Mr. J. D. STACEY MORENO (*Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Group of the States of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Yasushi Horikawa for assuming the Chair of the 55th session of this Committee and I can assure you that you can count on the active support of GRULAC. At the same time, I would like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Dorin Prunariu, for his contribution. I would also thank the director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat for the documents given to prepare for this Committee. GRULAC welcomes the new member States and welcomes the applications to join the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and accordingly we welcome the request from Costa Rica for membership. It shows the importance our region attaches to the peaceful use of outer space as well as the benefits derived from this for sustainable development of our peoples.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC is convinced of the peaceful use of outer space and its benefits for human development and accordingly we reaffirm our adherence in respect to the principles that should govern the activities of States in exploration and use of outer space, and in particular, universal access to outer space in conditions of equality benefitting all States, the principle of non-appropriation of outer space and the commitment entered into by States for the strict use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The great progress of space activities in various areas of human development and the use of space technology in a variety of areas, such as science, environment, medicine, education lead us to stress the importance of international and interregional cooperation to make sure that all countries have access to the progress made, specially developing countries, through programmes and activities for capacity-building in science and technology. The greater use of outer space by a growing number of stakeholders could generate unforeseen impact on the environment of outer space. Problems such as saturation of the geostationary orbit, space debris management and the use of nuclear power in terrestrial orbit are aspects that can affect sustainability of space activities. And, accordingly, GRULAC acknowledges the importance of the question of long-term sustainability of space activities and the analysis of this in COPUOS. GRULAC calls upon the working group to continue with its work in order to obtain clear results. In the same context, we believe that the study of this topic cannot and should not ever — under any circumstance — become an instrument for countries that traditionally have managed space technology to establish restrictions on other countries, which, in their legitimate right, have

come to see development in outer space as a fundamental tool for improvement of the conditions of our people. GRULAC sees the importance of the work of this Committee, promoting greater interaction between the two Subcommittees: Scientific and Legal, for the activity to be carried out within the necessary legal framework, which can promote understanding, acceptance and real application of the existing legal instruments which were elaborated within the United Nations. This interaction is fundamental to perfect the international legal framework for outer space, establishing legal liability of States in space activities developed by non-governmental entities.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC firmly believes that regional and interregional cooperation is one of the fundamental pillars in the area of the benefits to be derived from outer space. Thanks to that, we can have an exchange of knowledge in good practices as well as capacity-building at national and regional level. And thus, GRULAC endorses the Pachuca Declaration adopted at the 6th Space Conference of the Americas, setting space policy for the region for the near future, where paragraph 14 states the establishment of the space technology advisory group, GTech. This group set up by representatives of public institutions of the States of the region working on outer space will meet in July in Mexico City, with directors of national space agencies. GRULAC would like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its cooperation and we believe that it is important that the Committee continue to strengthen cooperation with regional bodies as well as academic and scientific institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean to generate synergy and to raise awareness of the benefits of space science and technology for sustainable development. The agenda before us at this 55th session of the Committee includes items of great importance for development, such as the link between space and water, climate change and society. In this context we must also mention that natural disasters for developing countries are a reason for great concern and GRULAC acknowledges that space tools have a growing role in prevention, management and mitigation of these disasters. On behalf of the Group of the States of Latin America and the Caribbean, I can reaffirm our eagerness and readiness to contribute to a constructive debate so that the work of the session can be successful. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC for his statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group. You have the floor.

Ms. T.D.G. MOLABA (*South Africa on behalf of the African Group*) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the African Group, I would like congratulate you, as well as the first Vice-Chair and the second Vice-Chair on your election as the Bureau of the Committee for the period 2012-2013, and I assure you of our full support. I wish also to express our appreciation to the Chair and the members of the outgoing Bureau for their able leadership, as well as the Director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman, and her staff for their dedication.

The African Group welcomes Azerbaijan as the 75th member State of the COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, the Group attaches great importance in the preservation and sustainability of space activities to ensure that their spin-off continues to be of benefit to all nations. In this regard, the Group looks forward to the discussions of the working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Mindful of importance of space science and technology in their applications to social, economic and cultural development, the African Group welcomes the efforts of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to reflect their importance in the Rio+20 Declaration.

The African Group notes with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters by using space technology-based solutions and calls upon member States to reinforce its capabilities.

Mr. Chairman, many African countries are increasingly oriented towards space activities in the development of national capacity-building. In order to achieve this goal, the African Group stresses the importance of dissemination of knowledge and technology transfer through bilateral channels, as well as in reinforcing multilateral cooperation with increased role for the Office of Outer Space Affairs (OOSA).

The African Group welcomes the announcement made on 25 May 2012 by the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Site Advisory Committee to jointly award the bid to Australia and to South Africa together with its 8 partner countries, which is Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia to host two of the

biggest components of this Square Kilometre Array. The African SKA bid was endorsed by the African Union in 2010 as well as early this year. The SKA is the world's largest and sensitive telescope that can address unanswered questions about our universe. The SKA will provide opportunities which include advancement of intellectual, social and economic development for the peoples of Africa.

At the regional level, the African Group welcomes the hosting of the International Astronautical Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, from 5 to 7 October 2011. The theme of the Congress was "African Astronautics" in recognition of the emergence of space activity in a number of countries across the continent. The Congress provided an opportunity for African countries to showcase their space capabilities and future plans for space activities. During the African space leaders' session it was stressed that advancing space science and technology is important for Africa to achieve its sustainable development objectives. It is also an important tool that can improve the daily lives of all African citizens. Lack of funding and technical capacity was identified as challenges that hinder efforts by African States in pursuing space activities. The need for enhanced international cooperation in the field of space was also highlighted as a necessity. In this regard, the efforts of COPUOS are paramount to promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

In the same vein, the African group welcomes the outcome of the Fourth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, held in Mombasa, Kenya, in September 2011. In particular, the reaffirmation of developing space technologies and related activities in African countries, implementing the project of the African Resources Management Constellation (ARM) and setting up of an integrated regional disaster management system in coordination, mostly with UN-SPIDER in its regional support offices in Africa. In this field, we know with appreciation the starting activities in 2011 of the UN-SPIDER regional support office for North Africa, based in Algiers as well as the offer made by South Africa, to host a UN-SPIDER regional support office, which underscore Africa's commitment to UN-SPIDER.

The African Group welcomes also the outcome of the fourth African Leadership Conference in the field of space law. In particular, the call for the accession of the African countries to the existing United Nations Treaties, the development of national policies and regulatory frameworks, fostering closer cooperation and dialogue between universities and

institutions with established space law programmes. In particular for the benefit of the students and professionals in the public and private sector in promoting overall capacity-building in space law in Africa, for which regional coordination and cooperation could play an important role. In this regard, the African Group notes with appreciation, the core organization by the Government of Kenya with OOSA of a session on space law on the margins of the fourth ALC.

The African Group encourages the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee to continue their efforts to develop the existing legal framework, where required, including through soft law, taking into account technological development, the expansion of space activities and emergence of new space actors, provided that the principles governing exploration and use of outer space set out below and not undermined. In this context, the African Group welcomes the efforts of the working group of the status and application of the five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space under the Chairmanship of Jean-François Mayence of Belgium.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate the position of Group on issues, some of which are in the agendas of the Committee, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The African Group stresses the importance of the international legal framework that allows equal exploration of outer space based on the principles of non-appropriation in peaceful uses of outer space in conformity with the five United Nations Treaties governing space activities, in particular the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of Space in the Exploration and the Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

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

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

of the working group on the definition and delimitation of outer space, under the Chairmanship of José Monserrat Filho of Brazil.

The proliferation of space debris is a matter of concern for the African Group due to its consequences on the future of the exploration and use of outer space. Therefore, the mitigation of space debris and the limitation of their creation should be among the priorities of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. It is against this background that challenges related to space activities, in particular space debris, should be addressed in such a way that it will not jeopardize the development of space capabilities of developing countries. In this regard, the Group encourages all States to consider voluntary implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

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

Regarding the organizational matters, the African Group calls upon to streamlining and improving the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. In this regard, it is the view of the Group that the work of the Legal Subcommittee should be reinforced by giving priority to the substantive issues in the strengthening of the international legal framework. On the other hand, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should also give more importance to the substantive issues and avoid commercial oriented presentations. In this regard, the Troika could play a role in ensuring that these presentations are in line with the mandate of COPUOS. I thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN We thank the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the African Group for her statements. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of France on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. G. DUFRESNE (*France on behalf of the European Union, interpretation from French*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Chair and I would

like to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen as well and I would like to assure you of our full cooperation. If I may, Mr. Chairman, now I would like to give the floor to the representative of the European Union delegation to give the EU statement.

Ms. G. M. MARTIN ZANATHY (*European Union*) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The candidate country Croatia associates itself with this statement.

First of all, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for chairing the 55th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are confident that under your able guidance, the Committee will achieve valuable results.

Over the last 50 years, Europe has developed strong and unique space capacities, which has place it among the dealing space-faring nations, allowing it to take part in major space endeavours.

Space is a driver for economic growth and innovation for the benefit of all people. Space addresses major challenges, such as climate change, scarce resources, health and aging and boosts the competitiveness of industry well beyond the space sector, thereby contributing to job creating and economic growth in almost all economic areas worldwide. The key challenge today is therefore to make sure that space activities are undertaken in a sustainable manner.

Therefore, the EU considers it necessary to ensure greater safety, security and sustainability in outer space and believes a pragmatic and incremental process can contribute to achieving this goal. The EU and its member States are committed to the development and implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means to achieve enhanced safety and security in outer space. In that respect, we are also particularly sensitive to the issue of risks posed by space debris, which are detrimental to present and future activities in outer space and should stay among the major priorities of our works, in particular as a core issue in the working group of the Long-term sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

In its reply to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/75 in September 2007, the European Union underlined the voluntary “rules of the

road” on outer space activities, endorsing best practices between space actors which would serve this objective.

The European Union has therefore launched a proposal on the basis of a preliminary draft for an International Code of Conduct for outer space activities. The EU High Representative carried out further and wider consultations with the aim of establishing a text that would be acceptable to the greatest number of countries and of adopting the Code of Conduct at an ad hoc diplomatic conference.

This draft code of conduct is based on three principles: freedom for all to use outer space for peaceful purposes, preservation of the security and integrity of space objects in orbit and due consideration for the legitimate security and defence needs of States. We foresee that the Code of Conduct will be applicable to all outer space activities conducted by States or non-governmental entities. It aims at laying down the basic principles to be observed by space-faring nations in both civil and military space activities.

Wide consultations have taken place since 2010 on the draft in view of adopting an international code of conduct in outer space activities. We are pleased that key space-faring nations declared support and expressed interest for this initiative. Over the recent months, intensive consultations and outreach initiatives have been conducted to capitalize upon the momentum these declarations have generated and to further enlarge international support for such Code.

The aim is now to open the Code of Conduct formally for signature at the ad hoc international diplomatic conference, open to participation by all States on a voluntary basis, to be convened as early as possible, in 2013. To that end, a multilateral kick-off meeting took place in Vienna on 5 of June, to inform member States about the code, which would be negotiated at the multilateral expert meeting envisaged to take place in New York in the autumn.

Mr. Chairman, the first priorities for this European space policy lie in the area of global navigation and Earth observation. The GNSS (Galileo and EGNOS) and GMES programmes, climate change, security, competitiveness and space and exploration have ever since been reaffirmed as priority areas. Their specific action continues to be required. The European Space Agency (ESA) focuses on research and development of space systems while the EU is taking an increasing responsibility in space actors, specially related to space applications and also developing the picture of how space could best serve Europe’s citizens and European policies. The EU provides financial

resources to the space programmes implementing these policies.

I would like to highlight important events in the development of our flagship programmes: the official start of operations of EGNOS, the first pan-European navigation satellite programme and at the same time precursor to the Galileo system on 1 October 2009. As concerns Galileo, the launch of the first two In-Orbit Validation satellites from the European Space Port of Kourou on 21 October 2011, constitutes an important milestone for the programme and a first step towards the completion of the deployment and exploitation of a competitive and independent Galileo constellation and its related services.

Space exploration is now a political and global endeavour, and Europe undertakes its action within a world-wide programme. Moreover, the value of space exploration is recognized for inspiring young Europeans to choose a career in science and technology, and to strengthen these capabilities in Europe. The EU welcomes the setting up of high-level international platform to identify the areas of space exploration open to international cooperation, underlying its political importance.

Mr. Chairman, over the last decades COPUOS lay down a firm leader basis for all forms of space activities which provides for the application of international law and promotion of international cooperation and understanding in the peaceful uses of outer space. The dissemination and exchange of information through transnational direct television broadcastings via satellite and remote satellite observations of Earth, and general standards regulating the safe use of nuclear power sources for the exploration and use of outer space.

In that respect, let me now commend the significant works undertaken currently under the auspices of COPUOS and put the emphasis on two major areas of progress:

Firstly, the final report of the working group on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space as approved at the last session of the latest Subcommittee, which constitutes an excellent analysis of the current status and development of national space legislation and regulatory frameworks.

We support the idea of submitting this document to the 67th session of the General Assembly in order to give more visibility to this work, reaches a

positive and concrete outcome of the work of COPUOS.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Chair of the working group, Ms. Irmgard Marboe and welcome to the session of the Legal Subcommittee to include the agenda item “General exchange of information on national legislation on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space” as a regular item in its agenda from next year onward. This will allow the Subcommittee to update the information received on a regular basis.

Secondly, the effective launch of the working group on Long-term sustainability of Outer Space Activities, whose terms of reference have been adopted at the last COPUOS plenary session in 2011 and whose results will be of key importance for our next sessions.

I would like to express our appreciation to the Chairman, Mr. Peter Martinez, for his dedication in this major work and look forward to examining and discussing the first outcome of the four expert groups on sustainable development: space debris and space operations, space weather and regulatory regimes.

Mr. Chairman, improving and rationalizing organization and working methods of COPUOS and the Subcommittee is also a key element to achieve significant progress on the substantial agenda of our work in all our sessions.

In that respect, we are ready to explore concrete proposals in order to make our sessions more efficient, such as for instance, the reallocation of resources on an experimental basis, in particular in view of the first result of the LTS (Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities) working group, the scheduling of our works to a wide and simultaneous opening of summary items for consideration, or the possibility to merge items in order to adopt and to focus on an action-oriented agenda and final reports of our meetings.

Effectiveness and cost-efficiency of our activities should be streamlined in all works of COPUOS and its subcommittees and therefore we would suggest to consider this issue early in the agenda to allot adequate time for substantive discussions on organizational matters.

To conclude, underlining our support and commitment to the dedicated work of COPUOS, we assure you of our support and wish COPUOS further successes during this session, as well as for the future.

Thank you for your attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of France and the European Union for his and her statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Japan. You have the floor.

Mr. T. OZAWA (*Japan*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, congratulations to you, Dr. Horikawa, on assuming the Chair of COPUOS. This being my first occasion to take the floor of this august body, I wish to stress that the Japanese delegation will support the Chair and work together with the other members of the Committee to achieve tangible results through our discussions. I also thank Dr. Prunariu for his able leadership during his chairmanship and also Dr. Mazlan Othman and her devoted staff for their efforts in preparing this session of COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, space-based technologies for telecommunication, Earth observation and navigation have become indispensable in our societies. In Japan, the great East Japan earthquake and tsunami reminded us of how important these technologies are for disaster management. For us, the launch of the Landsat-1 satellite in 1972 marked the beginning of Earth observation from outer space and we are proud to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the launch of Landsat during this session of COPUOS. We plan improve the applications of space-based technologies for enhancing better response to natural disasters globally.

Mr. Chairman, we welcome the enhanced role of the international Committee on GNSS which has been initiated after UNISPACE III. Japan had the pleasure to host the 6th ICG meeting last year and we look forward to this year's meeting, hosted by China. In this regard, I wish to mention that on Thursday and Friday of this week, Japan and the United States will jointly organize an ICG workshop on GNSS Spectrum Protection, Interference Detection and Mitigation.

Mr. Chairman, Japan is of the view that increased international cooperation is the key to the development and maintenance of the safe environment for conducting activities in space. I wish to elaborate on three points regarding the Japanese position:

First, Japan promotes efforts to establish international norms for peaceful uses of outer space. We would, therefore, welcome and encourage discussions at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that are geared towards setting

guidelines for securing the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. In order to enhance mutual understanding on this issue, Japan is preparing to organize an international workshop on the Protection of the Space Environment later this year. Japan has also joined multilateral discussions on facilitating the process for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. We are pleased that a multilateral meeting was held yesterday and that all Committee members were invited. These discussions are useful in maintaining transparency on the subject of sustainable development of outer space.

Second, Japan acknowledges that this Committee is a unique platform to enhance global governance for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space at the multilateral level. It allows its member States to gather and share information, insights and experiences. It ensures transparency and promotes mutual confidence and it allows member States to seek common ground on a range of different issues, including preservation of the space environment. In this context, Japan also attaches importance to the maintenance of close communications within this Committee and the regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms. We believe that the significant role of the regional mechanisms is to consolidate mutual understanding at the regional level and welcome their views to be shared with this Committee.

Third, Japan believes that this Committee can make effective contributions in tackling the global issues facing the international community. This Committee's contribution to the Rio+20 initiatives is a good example of how we can contribute to these issues. We would like to reiterate the importance and necessity of following up on the contributions of the Committee to these issues.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to move on to introduce Japan's recent achievements in space activities. Last month, JAXA successfully launched the first satellite of the Global Change Observation Mission. The so-called GCOM-W or better known as SHIZUKU. The objective of this satellite is long-term observation of the global water cycle, which we think will contribute to a better understanding of climate change and perhaps lead to the development of effective climate change solutions.

In the field of human space exploration, the Japanese astronaut Satoshi Furukawa completed his 165-day stay at the International Space Station in November of last year. Utilizing his experience as a medical doctor, astronaut Furukawa conducted various

space experiments, including one on osteoporosis medication and technical verification. He also captured brilliant footage of auroras, lightning and other lights on Earth from space using the world's first supersensitive high-definition video camera developed in Japan. This spectacular footage was broadcast via live television and allowed the public to enjoy a view of the Earth, which was previously enjoyed only by astronauts. We will show one of these videos at the reception we will host this evening.

In additions, astronaut Akihiko Hoshide is scheduled to begin his long-duration stay at the ISS this July. During his stay in the ISS, he will release small satellites from the Japanese Experiment Module called Kibo. We are confident that astronaut Hoshide is ready for this flight. Finally, next year, astronaut Koichi Wakata will lead the 39th ISS expedition as the first Japanese commander. We believe that Japanese astronauts will continue to show commitment and successfully accomplish their missions.

Mr. Chairman, at the regional level, Japan promotes the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). The 19th session of APRSAF will be co-hosted this year by Malaysia and Japan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 11-14 December. APRSAF is an open forum that promotes space cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, allowing the participation of various government entities, space agencies, universities, enterprises and international organizations within and outside the region on a voluntary basis.

We are happy to say that the fruitful discussions within APRSAF continuously generate practical initiatives. "Sentinel Asia", which is a project for supporting disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region, is one example of a successful APRSAF initiative as a result of pursuing voluntary-based, yet inclusive, participation. Its existence stands as a testimony of value that APRSAF could be considered as a model for regional space cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, at the national level, with the aim of strengthening the headquarter function for space policy in Japan, the Japanese cabinet made the decision called "Reorganization of Governmental Structure for Strategic Promotion of the Development and Utilization of Outer Space". Under this reorganization, the Cabinet Office will assume the implementing role in cross-agency systems, including the development, deployment and operation of the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System. The growing importance of space policy in the context of foreign policy is now better understood, and this April, the Space Policy Division was established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, I would end my statement by mentioning that Japan will continue to contribute to the advancement of space science and also provide experts to support the invaluable work of this Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Japan for his statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of China. You have the floor.

Mr. J. CHENG (*China, interpretation from Chinese*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, please allow me at the outset to offer the Chinese delegation's congratulations to you and all the members of the Bureau on your election. I would like to thank your predecessor, Mr. Prunariu for his hard work of the past two years. The Chinese delegation commends the efforts of Dr. Othman, director of OOSA and her colleagues at the Secretariat, in preparing this session.

Mr. Chairman, last year's jubilee commemorations of COPUOS are still fresh in our memory. Today, we are reunited here to witness the start of another semi-century in the history of COPUOS. In just over 10 days from now China will be launching the Shenzhou-9; China's very first manned space rendezvous and docking with a target vehicle named Tiangong-1, or space palace-1. At this momentous juncture, bridging the past and the future, as a member State of COPUOS, China extends her best wishes, rejoices that and is heartened by the promise and future and inspiring prospects of COPUOS. On the other hand, China is also acutely aware of the weight of the historical mission and entrustment of our times placed upon COPUOS.

As outer space players diversify and the scope of how outer space exploration broadens, the space endeavour of human kind is presented to us with unprecedented opportunities and challenges. In this regard, COPUOS has a great responsibility to fulfil in regulating outer space activities, keeping order in space and promoting space cooperation. In last year's COPUOS session, China put forward the notion of inclusive development of outer space and its three-pronged connotation, that is to say, such development should be inclusive of environmental resources of world cultures and of human kind as a whole. China is of the view that in our effort to tackle the challenges facing the world, we should promote inclusive development of outer space, but we need to bring and promote the development of all countries and all peoples, especially those that do not yet have space

capacities. We also refer to sustainable shared development; that enables our generation and future generations to use and share outer space on equitable basis. These propositions have been put forward by China to meet our common challenges related outer space, based on experience as a developing country with space capacity. These propositions have won the support and endorsement of many developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is an issue that is currently under the spotlight. China attaches great importance to it and is active participant in the relevant work of the working group. China believes that solving issues related to outer space sustainability hinges on the inclusive development of outer space. We should give more serious consideration how to solve these issues in the course of development and how to better shape and share the benefits of outer space with the entirety of human kind. We should commit ourselves to using development as a means to solve some sustainability-related issues, such as space debris. This makes it necessary for us to set a greater scope by international cooperation, exchange in the outer space demand to promote the common development of that outer space endeavour through equitable and open cooperation to realize major benefit by way of sharing the deliverables in a fair and reasonable manner, and to truly achieve the inclusive development of human kind's outer space endeavour. China calls on the international committee to give due regard to this issues.

Mr. Chairman, a thousand mile journey starts with the very first step, not only in inclusive development — an inspirational vision from China, when we look forward to the future of outer space endeavour but also a practical requirement that guides China's outer space activities. We have been holding fast to this notion over the past year and we have been conducting outer space activities in a responsible manner. We have been actively conducting surveillance and early warning of space debris, continuously improving, refining relevant standards, laws and management regimes and comprehensively implementing the preservation of the Long March series launch vehicles. China has conducted the de-orbiting of several end-of-life GEO satellites as part of the steady ongoing debris mitigation effort to contribute to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities with tangible, bonafide actions. Furthermore, through UN cyber Beijing office and Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, China has partnered with other countries in such areas as personnel training, capacity-building, data-sharing and technical services. In addition, China is ready to respond positively to the

Human Space Technology Initiative by providing more countries, especially developing countries, with the opportunity to take part in the construction of the Chinese space station and related research, to partake in the opportunities and fruits created by the Chinese space endeavour.

Mr. Chairman, in the white paper, China's space activities issued in December 2010, the Chinese Government makes a solid pledge that is to work with the international community to safeguard peaceful and clean outer space and promoting closer development. I would like to use this opportunity reiterate on behalf of the Government that China will, by upholding the philosophy of harmonious outer space, continue to work with the international community, represented by COPUOS and commit ourselves to striving towards building an outer space of peace, of development, of cooperation of the rule of law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of China for his statement. The next speaker in my list the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation. Distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation. You have the floor.

Mr. V. I. VORONKOV (*Russian Federation, interpretation from Russian*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. The delegation of the Russian Federation would like to congratulate you upon your election to this very important position: guiding how our committees work. We are happy with the selection and we are sure that you are going to be taking all possible measures to ensure the Committee's updating its agenda and answering the very difficult questions arising before us with regard to the development of space activity. At the same time, we would also like to thank Mr. Dumitru Prunariu for the work that he has accomplished as Chairman. He indeed, as a cosmonaut, who is still in love with outer space, has worked very capably, indeed, and was sure that this enables him to save the interests of the world use of outer space for peaceful purposes in other areas of his activities as well. Thank you very much to Ms. Mazlan for her good work guiding OOSA as well.

Mr. Chairman, as we assess the role and potential possibilities of the Committee, we cannot fail to take into account the fact that, in spite of the notable positive dynamics in its work at present, it is somewhat a different at time it is difficult for us indeed to be anything but sceptical and to see that its difficult indeed to have any guarantees and assure that outer space will remain weapon-free, indeed, and free of any demonstrations of force and illegal actions. This to date

has not been possible. There is even an effort to devalue the use of outer space in its peaceful, original meaning. The problem is not just that that, as we consider the priority agenda items for our Committee in the absence of consolidated ideas, it is very difficult for us to establish a good, reliable vector for our work —where we should apply our efforts — to advance the work of this Committee. We also do not believe that the analysis of security aspects in the context of the long-term sustainability of space activities should actually, per se, become a competing factor, rivalling the fear of sustaining peace in outer space. Quite to the contrary, security of outer space operations most certainly become an indelible intricate part of more a highly developed concept of neutralizing threats and ensuring stability in space. The problem however, will inevitably arise if we assign absolute importance to mitigating space debris and remediation of outer space environment and this to the detriment of other aspects of security and this in parallel of irrefutable affirmations of the right in the use of outer space for national security purposes. The practice affords us factual material to understand the grounds for our concern. For example, in the European Union revised version of the code of conduct for outer space activities, there are provisions of which are fully in correlation with the thematics of working group B on Long-term sustainability of outer space activity, but in various instances in this document, there are departures from the principle of jurisdiction and thus the issue as to whether States, when they implement their obligations and exercise the responsibilities within the code, and undertake actions — not all regarding with their own space objects — within their jurisdiction control but also indeed with regard to other space vehicles. In other words, not only with regard with other spacecraft whether that is alright or not? In implicit language it can be interpreted variously. It may be interpreted as implying that it is possible to give one State the right to take action regarding to other States' spacecraft. In the name of supreme interest space debris mitigation or national security interests. We believe that this issue probably will be clarified in our upcoming consultations on the code. In the work upcoming, on our principles, we should understand however that every initiative to endow legitimacy to any unilateral attempt, in other words, any attempt outside the context of consultations and agreements with the registration States, with regard to foreign space objects which are motivated by purposes having to do with space debris mitigation or the furtherance in the interest of national security, any such attempt would not be doomed to failure from the start, but also actually be endangering the course of future dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, the working document A/AC/105/L.278 which is open for discussion, which was originally presented by Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes indeed deserves our very serious consideration. The basis of this document actually presents very personal broad visions in the part of the author and we certainly would like to express our appreciation to him for these views as presented on these problems. But they are elements which are not uncontroversial here. There is a very technocratic spin given to this version, this view and the need to determine means for keeping outer space for peaceful purposes are not sufficiently clearly presented, we feel. The delegation of Russia is going to be speaking in greater detail about this matter later. Chairman, we have already spoken about the historical achievements of our country in outer space, indeed, and we indeed welcome that the 50th anniversary of the flight of the first woman cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, is going to be celebrated. We are going to be doing our utmost to ensure support for this event. And now I would like to speak briefly about the latest achievements of Russian space. Our space sector last year continued to develop very successfully. Russia accounted for some 40 per cent of last year's launches world-wide and last year also saw the first re-transmitter of a new generation, Lutch-5. placement in outer space and this ensures the active use of data re-transmission capabilities for the use of Russian and foreign users of such data and we have also completed our network of meteorological satellites. This was further development. Soyuz launch facilities in the Guyana centre was commissioned and this will serve the development of the support for the Galileo system. An important aspect of international cooperation has always been and continues to be the full implementation of the manned outer space flights and obligations of Russia as per the ISS operations. This is especially important because for the time being, the Soyuz is the only way to take crews out to the ISS. We also have plans for the future and this has to do with the support activities for the European Exomars project.

One of the most important means of insuring Russian interests in outer space is going to be the new space centre Vostochny, which is presently being built in the far Eastern parts of our country. Work on this gradually creates the conditions for the operations of our ground aerospace infrastructure and also enables us to develop our launch capabilities for the new generation, craft the use of promising man-transport system and other space resources to implement launches and guarantee smooth and reliable operations of Russia's network satellites. In 2015 we will be widening up the construction and commissioning of the space centre for the preparation launch of spacecraft for various purposes: for cargo transports and orbital

station models and by 2018 the space centre resources enabling man-flight programme implementation are going to be ensured and in the future the space centre will be further developed to implement promising space programmes. This stage will be strategically connected with the development of capabilities to deliver very heavy spacecraft.

In conclusion, Chairman, I would like to assure you that the Russian delegation remains ready to engage in constructive work and we count on a thorough debate of all the aspects or problems with the regard to space activities. Thank you very much, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation for his statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Austria. You have the floor.

Ms. C. STIX-HACKL (Austria)
Mr. Chairman, let me first congratulate you on your chairmanship of the 55th session of COPUOS. We are confident that our work during this session will substantially benefit from your profound experience and under your professional guidance, the Committee will achieve valuable results. Please be assured of all our full support for all your efforts. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman and her dedicated team, for the great work and invaluable assistance, including the preparation of this session.

Austria fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to make some additional comments.

This year, unfortunately again, a year of major devastation natural disasters that severely affected different regions of the world. These tragic events continue to be strong reminders that we must step up our efforts to effectively tackle the negative effects of climate change, natural disasters and extreme weather events all around the world. In particular, for developing countries that continue to be among the most severely affected by the damaging consequences of natural disasters, it is of great importance to increase our respective resilience.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that space-based technologies have a great potential to contribute to disaster early warning and response mechanisms, as well as to effective relief and rehabilitation efforts. Austria is, therefore, one of the leading contributors to UN-SPIDER and Austria is continuing to support

UN-SPIDER under the workplan for the biennium 2012 to 2013. With the contribution of Austria, UN-SPIDER realized outreach and capacity-building activities, technical advisory support and emergency response activities in regions that are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change, such as Africa, central and western Asia, Latin America and the Pacific and Caribbean regions.

Furthermore, Austria supports the upcoming United Nations International Expert Meeting on Crowdsourcing Mapping for Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response, which will be held in Vienna from 3-5 December 2012. This international expert meeting will contribute to bridging the gap between the virtual and technical communities, and the mapping and disaster managing communities.

The Austrian engagement with UN-SPIDER is a continuation of Austria's tradition of actively supporting forums of exchange and dialogue between developed and developing countries in the area of space activities in the view of sharing the benefits of space technology and applications to contribute to the security and development of all countries.

Mr. Chairman, the Austrian Centre for Geoinformatics, Salzburg (Z_GIS) has, on a request from the UNEP programme, analysed regional trends in temperature, rainfall, droughts and flooding, over the past 40 years and their implications for the availability of natural resources, stability of livelihoods, potential for migration and conflict in 17 West African countries. The analyses revealed significant changes in regional climatic conditions. Moreover, an innovative mapping methodology was utilized to identify 19 climate hotspots.

In support of humanitarian action, Z_GIS developed also methodologies for effectively monitoring the migration of internally displaced people as well as Earth observation-based information services to assist relief operations. This includes a population monitoring service that provides population estimations in temporary settlements structures, especially in situations with large refugee movements.

The Aeronautics and Space Agency of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency is currently financing a project on global monitoring of soil moisture for water resource management with the aim of using satellite-based soil moisture data at global scale for water hazards assessment. In the framework of this project, several studies have been carried out in different African countries and in Pakistan to develop

services for flood and drought forecasts. The project is in the final stage and the main results will be presented in Salzburg between 4-6 July 2012.

Mr. Chairman, the United Nations Conference on sustainable development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June this year, represents a unique opportunity to shape the future international development agenda. In this context, Austria welcomes the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in which the Subcommittee noted the important contributions of space technology to sustainable development and invited UN member States to contribute to the drafting process of the outcome document of the Conference with reference to the fundamental role of space technology-based data and geo-spatial information for the management of sustainable development.

Austria notes with appreciation the support of member States for this initiative. We hope that the final outcome document will allow rendering visibility to the importance of space technology and applications in the context of sustainable development. Austria also welcomes the agreement by the working group of the whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to study the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference with a view to discussing ways and means of assisting the Subcommittee and the Committee in follow-up activities after Rio+20 Conference. We are convinced that this Committee should play an important role in strengthening the relevance of space technology in contributing to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes and in supporting the post 2016 global development agenda.

Austria also supports a side event organized by UN-OOSA at the Rio+20 Conference. During this side event, a panel of experts will discuss the contribution of space-based information and technologies to support the implementation of Rio+20 outcomes, in particular in the areas of food, health, water and disaster management.

Mr. Chairman, we note with satisfaction that during this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee, the working group on national space legislation finalized its work according to its five-year workplan under the agenda item "General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful uses of outer space". Under the chairmanship of Professor Irmgard Marboe, the working group has been able to produce a comprehensive report which contains a full analysis of existing national space legislation of COPUOS member States.

We welcome the recommendation by the Legal Subcommittee that the Committee consider the recommendations on national legislation, relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space contained in the report of the Chair of the working group and decide in which form the text should be submitted to the 67th session of the General Assembly. Austria looks forward to discussions on this issue and hopes that the Committee will achieve results that allow rendering utmost visibility to the work of the Legal Subcommittee and its grouping group under this important agenda item. In our view, this could best be achieved by way of a separate General Assembly resolution. The work and findings of the working group on national space legislation provided also an essential input to the drafting of the Austrian Outer Space Act, which was adopted in December 2011.

Background to these efforts is the launch of the first Austrian satellite, BRITE-Austria/TUGSAT-1 and UniBRITE. The launch of these two satellites from southern India is now planned for the fourth quarter of 2012. Two compatible spacecraft from Poland and two from Canada will also be put in low-Earth orbit, constituting the first constellation of six nanosatellites to investigate the brightness variations of massive luminous stars and providing photometric data with unprecedented precision which cannot be obtained from the ground.

Mr. Chairman, from 18-21 September 2012, there will also be the 19 UN-ESA/Austria symposium and space for sustainable development in Graz. The topic planned series of three consecutive symposia is space weather. The monitoring of space weather is highly important, as critical infrastructure in space and on ground can be severely affected by solar activity. Many countries already operate various sensors for space weather monitoring. The selection of sensors and the harmonization of sensor data are urgent issues that will be addressed at the 2012 symposium.

Mr. Chairman, Austria attaches great importance also to space education. In this context, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency organizes the traditional annual Summer School Alpbach, which is cosponsored by ESA and ISSI. The summer school provides 10 days of in-depth teaching on different topics of space science and technology for 60 highly qualified European science and engineering students. In 2012 the summer school will be held from July 24 to August 2 and will be dedicated to the theme "Exploration of the Giant Planets and their Systems".

Mr. Chairman, as the only Committee of the United Nations system dealing with international

cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, COPUOS and its Subcommittees deserve our full attention and support. We believe that the Committee plays a very important role for the exchange of information and confidence-building in the area of outer space activities. It provides the unique opportunity to bring together space-faring nations and non-space-faring nations, developed and developing countries, State and non-State representatives as well as legal and technical experts on an international basis in order to discuss and address pertinent issues of the peaceful uses of outer space. This unique opportunity as well as the experience gathered in this Committee should be highly valued. It should, therefore, be in our common interest to allocate adequate time for substantive consideration of the issues before the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and to provide UN-OOSA and its programmes with the resources needed.

Austria supports efforts to enhance the efficiency of the Committee and its Subcommittees. We are open for the discussion of new inputs and fresh ideas, as well as working matters, which we hope will be conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me reaffirm Austria's full commitment to the United Nations' space activities. Throughout the case, Austria has played an active role in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and has actively supported consensus-building among partners within the COPUOS community. Rest assured that Austrian engagement and commitment for COPUOS is a lasting one.

Finally, I would like — last but not least — I would like to announce that Austria, as every year, has the pleasure to host the traditional heuringen reception on 13 June at 7:30 p.m. Heads of Missions have already received invitations via the pigeon holes. We would like to invite you to register attendance with the Austrian Permanent Mission. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Austria for her statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Poland, deputy speaker of the Polish Parliament.

Mr. J. WENDERLICH (*Poland*)
Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the delegation of Poland. First of all, allow me to congratulate Mr. Yasushi Horikawa from Japan for chairing the 55th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are confident that under your able guidance, the

Committee will achieve valuable results. I would like to assure Mr. Chairman, that you can be sure of the Polish delegation's support during the work of this session. At the same time, I would like to thank Dumitru Prunariu, the previous Chairman of COPUOS, Romanian cosmonaut for his successful chairmanship during the last two years. We greatly appreciate the work of Dr. Mazlan Othman, the director of OOSA and her staff, for the successful management of the work performed for all participants of this session.

Mr. Chairman, Poland supports in full the statement of the European Union, which we heard earlier this morning.

The results of our session need to be significant as space policy constitutes, for a long time, an important component of global work policy, as well as regional cooperation. It is also a recognized ingredient of particular countries' development strategy. No State can cooperate today in the global integrated work without space activity. Determination of the boundaries of how our development is sustainable, but at the same time innovative way, depends today on the solutions resulting from space activities.

Distinguished delegates, the space activity needs to be regulated by international law in order to contribute to socioeconomic benefits and sustainable development of particular countries, especially the developing countries. Therefore, the initiatives of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS are so important. The legislation should not restrict today particular States' access technologies, including those developed in the past without international control, even though this control results from challenges to long-term outer space activity and the use for peace purposes. These issues have to be subject of regional cooperation. Such cooperation will enable the States wishing to develop their own ability to use space applications; to do so preserving the Earth environment's integrity. In this context, Poland pays great attention to work of the newly created COPUOS working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space as the new platform in investigating and offering practical solutions.

Mr. Chairman, space programmes contribute to society's sustainable development as well oblige and help in responsible environment management, increasing human resources and social responsibility. For this reason the Group for Space in Parliament of the Republic of Poland, organized a seminar in Krakow on space programmes' contribution to sustainable development. This seminar was graced by the presence of 7 representative delegations of European

Parliaments, representatives of European space industry as well as the European Space Agency and the European Commission. The seminar's conclusions will be discussed further in October this year, during the 14th European Inter-parliamentary Space Conference to be held in Warsaw at the Polish Parliament. The contributions of space activity to sustainable development will be a leading subject of this conference .

Distinguished delegates, Poland carries out space activities, mainly in the frame of European cooperation. We contribute as a member of the European Union to its flagship programmes, such as Galileo and GMES and participating in their realization by hosting ground-base monitoring stations EGNOS and Galileo in the Space Research Centre in Warsaw. Poland joins the European space policy initiatives, especially the international code of conduct on outer space activities. Poland has currently developed, in cooperation with the European Space Agency, more than 40 projects. Scientific instruments constructed by the Polish space team, have visited on board of ESAS space probes, the orbits of the planets Mars, Venus, have landed on the surface of Titan, the Moon of Saturn, and are on the journey to comet in Rosetta mission. Poland gradually transforms its cooperation with ESA to full membership.

We continue to cooperate with the Russian Space Programmes. We have recently supplied instruments on board of the Fobos-Grunt probe. The Polish team are planning their participation in future Russian space programmes as well.

Two satellites dedicated to astronomical observation from the orbit by small satellites system BRITE are under development in Poland. A consortium formed together with Austria and Canada will perform a spectrometric investigation of variable stars using the BRITE satellite system.

Additionally, the participation of the Polish scientific team as co-investigator in the NASA heliophysical mission IBEX supplements the spectrum of Poland's international cooperation in space.

Mr. Chairman, education is the crucial issue for sustainable development. It is related among others to space activity. It is also an important aspect of space activity in Poland. The students of the Technical University of Warsaw have constructed a small satellite PWSAT in the frame of programmes dedicated to education — it is a satellite CubSat-class satellite — it was launched on the orbit along with other CubSat satellites by an ESA rocket VEGA in its first launch in

February 2012. PWSAT is still working correctly and it is a test bed for students to test their space satellite technology.

The education of space technology is provided at other technical universities in Poland. Polish students from different universities and space clubs participate in space projects organized for students by national and international organizations. A great example is the 2011 award to students of the Technical University of Bialystok (it is a town in my country) for the model of the Mars rover in the annual competition organized by the Mars Society in Utah in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Poland involves in space activity with the following goals: the first, to be recognized partner of world class research space programmes; the second, to create in Poland a market for space technology and satellite services to be used for economic activity and sustainable development; and the third, to synchronize its industrial policy with respect to small and medium size enterprises with modern and innovative space applications.

I hope these measures will be fruitful for our States and will integrate Poland, in this respect, with other partners, using space technology and outer space for peaceful purposes. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Poland for his statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Canada. You have the floor.

Mr. D. KENDALL (*Canada*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Canada congratulates you, Dr. Horikawa, for your election of Chairman of the UN COPUOS Committee, as well as to the two Vice-Chairmen on their elections. We are confident that the Committee will achieve positive results under your guidance and we look forward to working with you over the next two years. I would also like to express our sincere and deep gratitude to your predecessor, my dear colleague Dumitru Dorin Prunariu, for the significant work that the Committee accomplished during his mandate, as well as express a strong appreciation to the director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Othman, and to the members of her team for their diligent efforts in supporting delegations and in preparing this session of the Committee.

Canada is pleased to note you mentioned that as part of your discussion paper, you would be

promoting the role of the Committee and its Subcommittees as a unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We would like to express our solid support for this proposition as we believe that this Committee is unique in providing a forum for fruitful discussions between the many and growing number of nations involved in space activities that encourages collaborative processes and consensus-building in an increasingly fragile and threatened domain, but what has become an essential part of almost every country's infrastructure.

Canada is also pleased to support your statement, to develop a closer dialogue between the Committee and regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms in space activities in order to avoid the duplication of work and encourage the collaboration and promotion of the work undertaken by members of this Committee. These objectives, we believe, will lead to increased collaboration among space community members and foster concrete results at the international level.

Mr. Chairman, the Canadian delegation is particularly pleased to be here this year to celebrate another remarkable year in space history.

Fifty years ago on September 29, 1962, the Canadian Alouette-1 satellite was launched and marked the beginning of the Canadian space programme and Canada's entry into the space age. With the launch of Alouette, Canada became the first nation after Russia and the United States, to design and build its own artificial Earth satellite and have that satellite successfully launched into space and operate. The decades that followed, demonstrated the success of the Canadian expertise and technology, with the launch of a series of innovative communications, Earth observation and science satellites, as well as the participation in numerous international missions, with Canadian scientific instruments or technology.

In 1995, Canada became a world leader in radar technology with the launch of the Earth observation satellite RADARSAT-1, followed by RADARSAT-2 in 2007. Both satellites provide superior penetration capability through any type of weather conditions and during both day and night. The powerful synthetic aperture radar instrument allows Canada to obtain frequent, accurate and timely data of its entire territory, including the northern regions, which are frequently covered in clouds. Radarsat data are received worldwide through some 30 network stations established over 5 continents.

International collaboration has been the cornerstone of the Canadian space programme. With have collaborated in over 100 successful international missions and projects, where our nation has provided either key technology or knowledge.

Canada's participation and contribution to the international space station marked a significant new direction for the Canadian space programme with the development of the mobile servicing system comprised of Canadarm2, Dexter and the Mobile Base. The ISS is a ground-breaking scientific and research facility with the growing list of achievements. Whether we speak in improvements in human health, Earth observation, disaster response, technological advances or education and inspiration, the ISS is a source of pride and a model of viable and successful international collaboration. I am pleased to confirm that in February 9 in 2012 of this year, Canada formally renewed its support for and participation in the International Space Station until the year 2020, in line with their other partners.

Canada also joined the United States to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the launch in 1972 of the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, later renamed Landsat, which marked the beginning of an incredible journey for Earth observation science. Six other satellites have been launched since, which have permitted the acquisition of millions of images of our globe, that directly contribute to understand the extent of global climate change and which are used to change detection applications, agriculture, forestry, education and security. Canada is very grateful to the United States for the benefits accrued from this successful project since its beginning. We would like to congratulate the United States for their role and support in the delivery of free imagery from this programme and applaud NASA and the USGS for their management of this extraordinary programme that has contributed free images for the benefit of the global community. We look forward to attending the panel this afternoon to celebrate this anniversary, and we are pleased to have contributed to the Landsat exhibit.

Mr. Chairman, this year the Canadian Space Agency is contributing to the efforts initiated by the Government of Canada to balance its budget and to foster a safe and prosperous economic environment for Canadians. Overall, government expenditures have been reduced to contribute to achieving this balance. The Government of Canada has recently pledged continued support of Canada's space sector and will work closely with industry to review the aerospace and space sectors as well as policies and funding

mechanisms to ensure the continued growth of this important and dynamic industry in Canada.

The Canadian government announced in its recent budget new investments, such as the upgrade of Ground Satellite Stations that will serve Canada and its partners by assuring the continued accurate and precise access to data from Canadian and foreign space assets.

Canadarm2 on the International Space Station continues its support for ongoing operations and maintenance. On May 25, Canadarm2 successfully grappled and installed SpaceX's Dragon capsule on the space station. Canadarm2 has completed its third successful capture and docking of a free-flying satellite with the cosmic catch of the Dragon capsule.

The Canadian Space Agency is currently preparing for its second 6-month astronaut mission aboard the ISS. Canadian national, Chris Hadfield, will launch in December 2012 aboard the Soyuz spacecraft to reach the International Space Station, where he will live and work for 6 months as part of the crew of Expedition 34/35. During the second half of this mission, he will become the first Canadian commander of the ISS, a milestone for Canadian space exploration. In addition to overseeing operations as commander, he will carry out scientific experiments, operate Canadarm2 and perform various robotic tasks.

Mr. Chairman, Canada welcomes the human and space technology initiative lead by Dr. Takao Doi of the Office of Outer Space Affairs and is pleased to support this global effort to increase the access to the ISS for the conduct of science and technology experiments by non-ISS partners. One of our Canadian ISS experts will attend the HSTI meeting planned on the margins of this session on June 11 and 12. We trust that this effort will entice UN organizations to devote attention to the scientific outcomes of the ISS and put in place measures to take advantage of these outcomes in their respective missions.

The CSA will also continue to be active in the international level by participating actively in the International Space Exploration Coordination Group, or ISECG. The ISECG is currently chaired by the Canadian Space Agency for 2012 and will present the second iteration of the Global Exploration Roadmap for robotics and human exploration of the Moon, Mars and Asteroids. ISECG will also develop an international approach for the measurement of benefits that flow from space exploration. The Canadian Space Agency has also assumed the chairmanship of the International Committee on Satellite Earth Observation (CEOS) for the period 2012-2013.

Mr. Chairman, as the past chairman of the Inter-agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) for the year 2011-2012, it was my pleasure to welcome to Montreal, Canada, from May 22-25, delegates from 12 major space agencies for the 30th meeting of this Committee. It was a successful gathering, where delegates were able to exchange and discuss on a subject that is growing in importance. The Committee looks forward to working closely with the working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space activities on this issue.

Canada strongly supports the increased awareness and concern by all IADC members of the issue of the increased build-up of space debris at key altitudes and the growing awareness of the need for remediation strategies. As mentioned earlier and has been mentioned by many delegates during their statements, we recognize the importance of adopting voluntary measures to control global debris and the promotion of the implementation of national mitigation practices. I am therefore proud to announce to the Committee that the Canadian Space Agency has formally adopted the IADC Space Mitigation Guidelines for application to its future missions and projects. The Canadian Space Agency will also work with other governmental departments, academia and industry to encourage the adoption of space debris mitigation measures to all future Canadian space missions.

Mr. Chairman, Canada has been very active on a variety of projects in 2011-12 and we are preparing for the coming launch of 4 small Canadian satellites and 2 nanosats in the near future.

Canada supports early detection and precision tracking systems as they are most effective tools for management of threats posed by near-Earth objects. The launch of NEOSSAT in 2012 — the Near-Earth Object Surveillance Satellite — will contribute to increasing our scientific knowledge and awareness by using the world's first space telescope dedicated to detecting and tracking asteroids, satellites and debris. It will provide key data on objects orbiting the Earth and will be the first space telescope to search for near-Earth asteroids — especially those that spend most of their time between the Sun and the Earth, and which, therefore, are very difficult to detect using ground-based systems.

NEOSSAT will be launched along with another Canadian satellite, Sapphire. This satellite will also have space-based surveillance capabilities and, once operational, the data will be shared with the United States Space Surveillance Network in order to

contribute to global effort of monitoring space debris and securing a safer space environment.

Canada's north is a priority for the Government of Canada. A comprehensive strategy was recently developed to guide the future for Canada's north activities. Space technologies will definitely play a key role in the implementation of this strategy. Through the abilities to measure, record, collect, monitor and analyse radar imagery data, the Government of Canada obtains the information it needs to make appropriate decisions and to exercise Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic; protecting our environmental heritage; and promoting social and economic development. M3MSat — or the Maritime Monitoring and Messaging Micro-Satellite — a project of the Canadian Space Agency and the Department of National Defence, will contribute to this effort. As navigation increases with the opening of the Northwest passage, the micro-satellite with its Automatic Identification System payload, or AIS, will provide a test bed and demonstration platform to track ocean vessels within the Arctic, but also on a global scale.

Finally, with the launch of the hybrid small satellite CASSIOPE, scheduled for 2012, Canada will make a significant contribution to unravelling the mysteries of space weather. Its scientific payload, ePOP, or Enhanced Polar Outflow Probe, will observe the airflow of energetic particles from the Earth's ionosphere and collect information of the effects of solar storms and their harmful impact on radio communications and satellite navigation. Its communications payload will offer solutions to the commercial sector that need access to high-speed data transfer services.

Canada is also proud to have jointly initiated the international collaborative project — the BRITE Constellation — which will consist of 6 nanosats that will join the Canadian satellite MOST in orbit, to make highly precise measurements of the brightness variations of a large number of bright Stars. As it has been mentioned, Canada is a partner in the BRITE Constellation with Austria and Poland, as has just been mentioned by my distinguished colleagues from these two countries, to the funding of the BRITE-CA1 and CA2 satellites. These are scheduled for launch in 2013.

Mr. Chairman, Canada submitted to the Office of Outer Space Affairs a summary report on Canada's recent activities on the international cooperation in space. The report includes all of Canada's main achievements and provides details on its collaboration with international partners. A longer report is also available and members of the Canadian delegation will

distribute copies for member States, organizations and observers.

The Government of Canada is also pleased to have contributed to the 2012 Space Security Index. We welcome the quality of the work done by the governance group and advisory committee, including the Secure World Foundation and Project Ploughshares, as well as numerous other contributors, including the Montreal-McGill University Institute of Air and Space Law. We look forward to hear the presentation that will be made on the 2012 edition of this international reference of the space community.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, the Canadian delegation will provide more information on the specific agenda items when they will be open for consideration. We intend to comment on the reports from the session of the Legal and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittees, that have both been constructive and allow progress and fruitful discussions on many subjects. We also plan to provide information on the agenda item "Space and society".

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to confirm that the Canadian delegation ensures you its entire support and collaboration during your mandate and looks forward to our dynamic and constructive session under your leadership. Thank you.

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

Mr. K. HODGKINS (*United States*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the US delegation, I would like to congratulate you and the rest of the Bureau for your election to lead the Committee for a two-year term. We look forward to working with you to ensure a successful outcome during your term. I would also like to express our deep appreciation to the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their superb work for the past year and for their diligent efforts to prepare for our meetings over the coming days. Since last year's session, the Committee and its Subcommittees recorded a number of significant achievements in promoting international space cooperation. My delegation will address those under the appropriate agenda items.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to note that, in accordance with the US National Space Policy of June 2010, the United States is placing increased emphasis on international cooperation to promote the peaceful use of outer space in a wide range of areas.

We intend to work closely with the UN and with other organizations, to continue to address the growing problem with space debris and to promote best practices for sustainable use of space. We will also continue to pursue pragmatic transparency and confidence-building measures to mitigate the risk of mishaps, misperceptions and miscalculations. The US space policy reaffirms a long standing and bipartisan US policy that we are open to space-related confidence-building and arms-control concepts and proposals, provided they meet the rigorous criteria of equitability, factor-verifiability and consistency with our national security interests.

During the past year, we have continued to witness extraordinary international scientific and technical accomplishments in our quest to explore space. 2011 marked another year of progress in which the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) continued to provide a forum for space agencies to share their space exploration interests and plans with the goals of strengthening both international exploration programmes as well as the collective effort. The first iteration of the Global Exploration Roadmap was released by participating agencies in September 2011. The roadmap advances the Global Exploration Strategy by articulating the perspectives of participating agencies on our exploration goals and objectives, missions scenarios and coordination of exploration preparatory activities.

NASA completed the final 3 space shuttle missions in 2011 — all to the International Space Station. The February mission was the space shuttle Discovery's 39th and final flight. This mission was unique in that it was the only time that the United States space shuttle, two Russian Soyuz capsules and a Russian Progress vehicle, the European Space Agency's Automated Transfer Vehicle and a Japanese H-II Transfer Vehicle were all docked to the station at the same time. The May mission was the final flight of the space shuttle Endeavour, and the July mission was the final flight for space shuttle Atlantis and the last flight of the shuttle programme. Over the course of the 30-year space shuttle programme, the space shuttles flew 135 flights, transported 852 shuttle flyers from 16 different countries and logged 540 million miles.

Mr. Chairman let me now highlight US activities in the Earth observation realm. The Suomi National Polar-Orbiting Partnership was successfully launched in October 2011. Suomi is a polar orbiting weather and climate monitoring satellite that will serve as a bridge between the current Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellite System and the forthcoming series of Joint Polar Satellite Systems satellites. With

its 5 instruments, Suomi measures the Earth's atmospheric and sea surface temperatures, humidity, land and ocean biological activity, and clouded and aerosol properties, providing critical environmental data to forecast and mitigate disasters.

On December 6 2011, GOES-15 — the newest space craft in the US fleet of Geostationary Operational Weather Satellites — replaced GOES-11 as NOAA's GOES-West spacecraft. GOES-15 carries 4 main instruments, including an Earth imager and sounder, a space environmental monitor and a solar imager. NOAA plans to launch its next generation geostationary programme, GOES-R in 2015.

NASA assumed a leadership role in the international Earth science community in 2011 by becoming the Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Strategic Implementation Team (CEOS SIT) for a two-year term. CEOS consists of 29 national space agencies and 21 international organizations that work together to coordinate civil space point observations of the Earth. Participating agencies strive to enhance international coordination and data exchange and to optimize societal benefit. The SIT is a strategic planning body of CEOS and as its chair, NASA will help guide international strategic planning on research benefits in space applications of satellite-based Earth observations.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) of the US Department of the Interior, continues to upgrade the Landsat-5 and 7 satellites and make the data available to users worldwide. Landsat provides essential information for land surface monitoring, ecosystems management, disaster mitigation and climate change research. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Landsat series of satellites and in this regard we are especially gratified that the Committee will commemorate this milestone with a special panel at today's afternoon meeting.

Since 2008, when the four US Landsat image archive was made available to users free of charge over the Internet, we have witnessed phenomenal growth in the delivery of Landsat scenes, from an average of just 15 scenes per day in USGS's best sales year to more than 5,500 scenes per day in 2011. By April 2012, the USGS had provided over 8 million Landsat scenes to users in 186 countries. The free availability of this GIS-ready land imaging data is having a tremendous global impact on Earth systems science and land surface monitoring.

NASA and USGS are working in a partnership to develop the space and ground systems for the

Landsat Data Continuity Mission, which will be renamed Landsat 8 after its planned January 2013 launch. This satellite will continue the collection of moderate-resolution land imagery that was begun in 1972. The USGS will make Landsat 8 data freely available to users worldwide through an easy-to-use web interface.

United States congratulates the Government of Japan for the successful launch of the Global Change Observation Mission satellite (GCOM) on May 18 2012. Under an agreement between NOAA and JAXA, NOAA is receiving GCOM-1 data and will use it for critical sea surface temperature and near-real time weather and ocean forecasts that will be available to users worldwide. Combined with data from NOAA's new Suomi satellite, GCOM will strengthen the environmental monitoring capabilities of both countries.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to call to the attention of delegates, an important milestone in commercial space activities: last month the firm SpaceX successfully launched and docked with the International Space Station the Dragon resupply capsule. Dragon was also successfully returned to Earth with experiments and other cargo from the station. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. S. S. BIYIKLI (*Turkey*) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Turkey, as well as on behalf of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK).

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs and all countries and organizations who contribute to the peaceful use of outer space. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and reiterate the full support of my delegation.

Turkey has attributed special emphasis to space activities since 2005, in line with the national space research programme — efforts to further space research, building capacity and international collaboration have accelerated. Here I would like to give a brief summary of recent space activities in Turkey.

First of all, the Earth observation satellite, RASAT, which was designed, developed and tested in Turkey by Turkish engineers, was launched successfully in August 2011. Since then, optical images are being downloaded at TÜBİTAK Ankara ground station. RASAT is being used to meet the needs of public and private sectors in the remote sensing areas, such as mapping, environmental studies, disaster monitoring, land cover mapping and city planning. You will find detailed information about RASAT and subsystems in the exhibition held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the first Earth observation satellite programme —Landsat — in the rotunda.

Turkey's next Earth observation satellite project Göktürk-II, will be launched by the end of 2012.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, at the international level, I would like to emphasize that Turkey, as an emerging power in space, it is of more importance international collaboration as an essential component of our work. Since 2008, Turkey is a member of the Group on Earth Observations and a part of GEOSS. Last year, GEO 8th plenary meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey. TÜBİTAK was the host institution of that meeting. It was a great pleasure and experience to organize such a distinguished event. The Turkish Minister of Science, Industry and Technology made

an important welcoming speech to around 500 high-level participants. On the same occasion, the GEO exhibition was also inaugurated.

Furthermore, Turkey's membership in APSCO was approved in July 2011 as a signatory State. From now on, Turkey will also mobilize its efforts to be an active player in APSCO at the both technical and political level.

I would also like to underline that the Turkish delegation pledges its support to you, Mr. Chairman, towards a successful 55th session. Thank you for your kind attention.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Turkey for her statement. The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Indonesia. You have the floor.

Mr. T. DJAMALUDDIN (*Indonesia*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on behalf of the Indonesia delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express our congratulation upon your election as the new Chairman of the Committee for the

period 2012-2013, as also to all new members of the Bureau.

We pledge our full cooperation and support to the successful work of the Bureau. Under your able leadership, my delegation believes, that the deliberations under this Committee will bring good results. My delegation would also like to convey its gratitude and appreciation to the previous Chair and the members of the Bureau for a job well done.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Landsat, my delegation wishes to express its high appreciation to Landsat for its continued mission in operating with resolution satellites for Earth observation. Indonesia has been utilizing remote sensing data of the Landsat series to support the development of forestry, agriculture, the marine and coastal ecosystem and other areas.

Mr. Chairman, concerning the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Indonesia emphasises the importance of international cooperation in enhancing peaceful uses of outer space. In this regard, Indonesia has strengthened cooperation at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. Such cooperation includes, among others:

Indonesia expresses its readiness to host and operate the Regional Support Office of UN-SPIDER in South-East Asia. To implement the UN-SPIDER programmes of the regional support office in Indonesia, it is our fervent hope that the cooperation agreement on the establishment of the RSO could be assigned soon.

Indonesia has actively participated in the programmes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Forum (APRSAF) in the Sentinel Asia Framework in the area of use of satellite data for the system management. Indonesia has also taken part in various activities organized by Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), such as training and education in remote sensing, satellite technology, communications satellites, as well as feasibility studies of various projects in space science and space technology and its application.

Indonesia, in cooperation with the Technisches Universität, Berlin, has successfully launched Lapan-Tubsat. It has been in orbit for 5 years. Following the success of the Lapan-Tubsat satellite development and operation, Indonesia has also developed 2 microsattellites and is ready to launch them to both polar and equatorial orbits in cooperation with India.

In the area of remote sensing, Indonesia has several cooperation programmes, among others, the Indonesia Carbon Accounting System (INCAS) with the Government of Australia; Forest Carbon Analysis with the Government of Japan; and in forest mapping using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data with the Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Those activities are conducted to spot the global climate change mitigation and adaptation action under UNFCCC.

Mr. Chairman, on the report of the Legal Subcommittee, my delegation wishes to reiterate that consideration of the GSO at the Subcommittee would allow us to reach a decision in assuring guaranteed and equitable access to GSO according to the needs of all nations, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries as well as the geographical position of certain countries.

With regard to the saturation risk inherent in GSO, the nature of exploitation of the GSO should be kept rational. Preference should naturally be given to countries in vulnerable areas. Bearing in mind the importance of the geostationary orbits as has been repeatedly expressed at the previous COPUOS meetings, my delegation strongly supports that GSO continue to be included on the agenda of the 47th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS.

Furthermore, my delegation is also of the view that the definition and delimitation of outer space should remain part of the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee since it could contribute to the increasing of the legal certainty of the other space activities.

With regard to our national legal framework related to outer space, my delegation is pleased to inform you that Indonesia is currently in the process of making national space law. Lessons learned from exchange of information among member States on national regulation, relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, as well as recommendations of the Legal Subcommittee, have been useful for the Government of Indonesia in developing national space law.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate my delegation's firm commitment in support to the work of this Committee for the benefit of mankind. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

speaker is the distinguished representative of Secure World Foundation. You have the floor.

Ms. A. LUKASZCZYK (*Secure World Foundation*) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we at the Secure World Foundation extend our congratulations on your steadfast and thoughtful guidance of this Committee. Secure World Foundation looks forward to supporting you and the work of the Committee in any way that it can.

We also note that continued efforts of the Office of Outer Space Affairs under the direction of Dr. Mazlan Othman to buttress the peaceful uses of outer space. We are confident that this Committee and OOSA will continue successfully to provide effective support for the peaceful uses of outer space resources, especially for emerging space States.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity today to present the Foundation's work in support of the aims of COPUOS. Secure World Foundation focuses its work on its primary themes: the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, the development of sound space policy and law, the governance of the use of space capabilities in support of human and environmental security and the protection of Earth and its peoples from near Earth objects.

This April, SWF partnered with the secretariat pro tempore of the Space Conference of the Americas and the Mexican Space Agency on a highly successful three-day series of international forums, entitled "Space for human and environmental security in the Americas, space policy, long-term sustainability and cyber health". Participants from Brazil, Canada the European Union, Mexico, Portugal and Venezuela, took part among others, in this event. Among other things, the workshop provided the catalyst for several follow-up international cooperative programmes using space technologies, including one to investigate the recent worrying activity of the volcano near Mexico City and another to limit the effects of chagas disease, a vector-borne disease that affects 18 million individuals throughout the world.

SWF has continued to partner with UN-SPIDER. The fifth international UN-SPIDER workshop on disaster management and space technology, was held in Bonn, Germany. The workshop focused on strengthening global synergies through knowledge management portals and networks, bringing together more than 50 experts from Asia, Australia, Africa and Latin America. It provided a forum for UN-SPIDER to gather elements to update its knowledge management strategy, particularly

regarding the UN-SPIDER knowledge portal. The workshop was co-organized by the German Air Space Centre (DLR) and supported by Secure World Foundation, the city of Bonn and the German Ministry of Economics and Technology. This spring, SWF released a call for student papers, which is still ongoing, in preparation for its upcoming 2012 Beijing Space Sustainability Conference, in partnership with Beihang University and the International Space University. The conference will feature two sessions of student papers on selected technical, law and policy topics related to space sustainability. The call for papers is open to any graduate student and abstracts can be submitted before July 15 of this year. Details can be found on the SWF website.

In May, our DC office hosted a panel discussion on international perspectives on space sustainability from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The goal was to have a broad overview of international projects to the concerns about space sustainability and to bring perspectives often not heard to DC policymakers. Speakers were Dr. Abiodun Adigun, African Space Foundation; Ambassador Ciro Arevalo, Chairman of the International Astronautical Federation's Regional Group for Latin America and the Caribbean; Dr. Sergio Camacho, Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean; Dr. Fan Yonggang, Institute of Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Wing Commander Ajey Lele, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; Professor Li Bin, Beihang University; and Dr. Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, Observer Research Foundation.

Once again, Secure World Foundation co-organized the annual conference on space security with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). It was organized in collaboration with the Science Foundation and the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and it aimed to provide information and critical analysis of space security issues to Geneva's disarmament community. This year the conference outlined the basics on space security while providing the outlook on the future of space security and the potential progress to be made. The conference also explored technical challenges to transparency and confidence-building measures.

SWF's Brussels office convened and facilitated two meetings that were timely aligned in importance with the space policy community.

The first aimed to review the current status of the European Union proposal for the International

Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. SWF brought together experts on March 8 in Brussels to take part in the special panel, titled “International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities: the International Perspectives”. The group of specialists examined the code, its current status, challenges and the way forward from the point of view of several States. For the second event, we brought together leading experts from Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) to participate in a thought-provoking panel discussion; specialists examined its current status as well as what the future holds. In addition, the overall relevance and importance of the programme was detailed by panellists.

In May, together with the Polish Space Research Centre, we organized a workshop on use of space applications in humanitarian operations. It was devoted to presenting and discussing optimal utilization of space applications, in support of humanitarian efforts during a large-scale crises. The core parts of the workshop were full-day simulations of humanitarian operations with the active involvement of our participants and a half-day evaluation and discussion followed after. The simulation was designed as an interactive game and it fostered a large number of topics through a realistic exercise.

In conclusion, Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintain the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all of its peoples. It acts as a research body, convener and facilitator to advocate for international cooperation in solving the problems of space debris, orbital crowding and other man-made threats to the space environment. The foundation fervently believes that the challenge of sustaining the ability of human kind to space this space environment now and in the future, must be met in a truly international and cooperative manner.

Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS as the benefits of space activities expand in number and improve in quality. Keeping outer space available for peaceful activities will become ever more important. As the space age evolves, the world community has the unique to safeguard the secure and sustainable use of the space environment. We look forward to supporting the Committee efforts to achieve such a future.

I do have one last announcement. As we are celebrating the 40 years of Landsat this year, the United States delegation to COPUOS and the Secure World Foundation cordially invite delegates to COPUOS to receptions celebrating Landsat’s 40 year history of providing high quality remotely sensed data

to the world. We also celebrate the international cooperation that has made the Landsat programme a success. The reception is tomorrow during lunch time at 1 p.m. downstairs. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the distinguished representative of Secure World Foundation for her statement. Distinguished delegates, we shall continue our consideration of agenda item 5 “General exchange of views” tomorrow. Distinguished delegates, I would now like to inform you about the schedule of work of the Committee for this afternoon. We will meet promptly at 3 p.m. At that time, I will adjourn the meeting so that the special panel on the 40th anniversary of the Landsat Programme and the “Worldwide Evolution of Remote Sensing from Space” can be held in this room. After the panel, I would like to cordially invite all delegates and observers to attend the reception hosted by Japan, starting at 6:15 p.m. in the Mozart room of the VIC restaurant.

I would also like to inform delegates that from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. today, on the margins of the session, there will be a meeting of expert group B on “Space debris, space operations and tools to support collaborative space situational awareness” working under the working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The meeting will be held in meeting room MOE100. Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule? I see none.

This meeting is adjourned until 3 p.m. this afternoon.