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

Script

859th Meeting

Monday, 8 April 2013, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. T. Brisibe (Nigeria)

The meeting was called to order at 10.14 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I am delighted and honoured to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and now declare open the fifty second session and 859th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I thank all member States of the Committee for the confidence that you have placed in me as the Chair of the Subcommittee for the period 2012 to 2013 in furthering the work of the Legal Subcommittee and I assure you of my commitment to the work of the Subcommittee during this session.

In view of the decision by the General Assembly, please allow me to welcome Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan as members of the Committee.

May I also welcome the Ibero-American Institute for Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, as well as the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics, SCOSTEP, as the latest organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee.

I should take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for its valuable work in preparing for this session.

Adoption of the agenda

Allow me now to proceed with the proposal to the Subcommittee to adopt its agenda for this session.

Distinguished delegates, you have before you for your approval and adoption, the provisional agenda for this session, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.288.

This provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of agreement reached at the 2012 session of the Committee which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/67/113. Please note that the annotations are not part of the agenda and that there is an indicative schedule of work in the annex of that document.

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

It is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, with respect to the participation of non-members in the session, I have received communications from the following member States of the United Nations: Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Israel and the United Arab Emirates, and from the following organizations: European Union, requesting to participate in the meetings of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee as observers. I would, therefore, suggest that in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations to attend the current session and to address the Subcommittee as appropriate. This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decision of the full 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.

Distinguished delegates, I recall for your information the application for membership in the Committee received from Ghana, contained in Conference Room Paper 3, and the application for permanent observer status with the Committee received

from the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology, ISNET, contained in Conference Room Paper 4. The Committee at its fifty-sixth session in June will consider these applications.

Programme of work

Distinguished delegates, regarding the programme of work, you will recall during the fifty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2012, the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space concluded its work under its multi-year Work Plan. The activities of this Working Group resulted in a final report, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/101, which constitutes an important source of information for States developing national space-related regulatory frameworks. At its fifty-fifth session held in June 2012, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that the Chair of the Working Group would continue to consult with member States in the inter-sessional period on the text of the recommendations contained in the Final Report and that the text of those recommendations, as revised on the basis of the consultations, should be submitted to the Subcommittee at this current session for agreement.

It was also agreed that the Subcommittee should consider the form in which the agreed text is to be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at its sixty-eighth session. The revised text of the recommendations is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.289.

The findings of the Working Group, together with the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks being developed under the auspices of this Subcommittee provide a broad picture of how States regulate their national space activities and the exchange of information on national legislation allows the States to identify common principles, norms and procedures on how space activities are regulated. This coordination and cooperation, in turn, enhance consistency and predictability in the conduct of space activities.

In continuing the examination of national regulatory mechanisms relating to the conduct of space activities and the new item on our agenda entitled "Review of the International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space" endeavours to categorize the range of mechanisms for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space including existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, non-binding agreements, principles, technical guidelines

and other cooperative mechanisms with the aim of developing an understanding of the range of collaborative mechanisms employed by States and international organizations.

Distinguished delegates, appropriately enough, this year the session of the Legal Subcommittee coincides with the International Day of Human Space Flight celebrated on 12 April, as declared by the General Assembly, commemorating one of the greatest triumphs of human progress, the first spaceflight of Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, that paved the way for worldwide human spaceflight endeavour and exploration. International cooperation in human spaceflight will also be in focus of a special presentation by Mr. William H. Gerstenmaier from the Multilateral Coordination Board of the International Space Station.

Also on 12 April, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will launch its latest edition of an online autograph album entitled "Messages from Space Explorers to Future Generations", containing copies of the signed sheets with messages from space explorers to future generations.

Distinguished delegates, may I draw your attention to the work we have before us at this session.

We will reconvene two working groups, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

As you will note from the annotations to the agenda just adopted in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.288, there are several documents prepared for this session both for your consideration in the respect of the Working Groups and under other agenda items and you have a number of those documents provided in the package before you. You will in addition receive a number of Conference Room Papers during the course of this session.

Distinguished delegates, I should now proceed by reconvening our Working Groups at this session in order to allow for the Chairs of the respective Working Groups to begin their work.

The following Working Groups should be reconvened under their respective Chairs. The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jean-François Mayence of Belgium, and the Working Group on the Definition and

Delimitation of Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the Subcommittee wishes to reconvene these Working Groups under their respective Chairs?

It is so decided.

I wish Mr. Jean-François Mayence and Mr. José Monserrat Filho the very best of luck in their endeavours at this session.

Organization matters

Distinguished delegation, with respect to organizational matters, as in the past the indicative schedule which was adopted by the Subcommittee earlier this morning, will be as much as possible followed in a flexible manner 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. Please be informed of the arrangements made for this session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Assigned Conference Meeting Rooms include Board Room B and Conference Rooms M7, M0E100, M0E19, M0114 and M0116. Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish and sound recordings will be provided for the plenary meetings in all languages referred to above.

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 hours, namely from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 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 more 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 over time, and a night shift and intensive 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 as possible documentation in all six official languages. 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.

And with that, I trust we will bring this session to a successful closing.

Delegates are reminded of the General Assembly's request to cut down 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 the guidelines issued by the Secretary-General towards achieving this. 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 off mobile telephones when entering any Conference Room. Mobile phones switched on and on standby 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, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its fifty-fourth session in 2011, delegations are to be provided on the first day of each session with a draft list of the scheduling of technical presentations. This is also stated under Section 13 of the annotated agenda in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.288. In view of the fact that only four presentations have been requested for at

this moment, the Secretariat will not provide such a list. I will instead give you the information as follows.

On Friday morning, 12 April, the Chair of the Multilateral Coordination Board of the International Space Station, Mr. William Gerstenmaier, will make a presentation on the International Space Station, ISS.

On Monday afternoon, 15 April, Japan will make a presentation related to the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

On Tuesday, afternoon, 16 April, Japan will make a presentation related to capacity-building in space law.

And on Wednesday morning, 17 April, the Space Agency partners of the International Space Station will make a joint presentation on the International Space Station Intergovernmental Agreement.

I would urge delegations to provide the Secretariat with any additional requests for technical presentations by tomorrow, Tuesday, 9 April, close of business.

I also remind delegations that speaking notes for technical presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.

Distinguished delegates, I should now outline a tentative schedule for the next meetings.

This morning we shall shortly proceed with the general exchange of views. This afternoon, starting at 3.00 p.m., a Symposium on the theme "The UNIDROIT Space Protocol" will be held in this Conference Room.

At 6.00 p.m., following the Symposium, there will be a reception hosted by the organizers of this Symposium, the International Institute of Space, IISL, and the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL, in the Mozart Room at the Vienna International Centre Restaurant.

Are there any questions or comments regarding the schedule of work that I have just outlined?

I see none. We will proceed accordingly.

General exchange of views (agenda item 3)

Distinguished delegates, I would now suggest we begin consideration of item 3 on our agenda, General Exchange of Views.

In order to enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all items of the provisional agenda in a timely and balanced manner, the item entitled "General Exchange of Views" has been scheduled over a longer period of time during the session. The number of statements to be made under "General Exchange of Views" at each meeting may be limited as necessary in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting.

As a general guideline, statements in the general exchange of views should be no more than 10 minutes in length.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Guatemala on behalf of GRULAC. I give you the floor.

Mr. A. CATELLANOS LOPEZ (GRULAC) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, GRULAC, let me congratulate you Sir, Mr. Tare Charles Brisibe, on once again chairing this session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, COPUOS, and let me convey our belief that under your leadership, the deliberations of this session will be successful.

Furthermore, let me pledge our support and active cooperation on behalf of the Regional Group towards the objectives that we have set before us.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC is convinced that the peaceful uses of outer space bring real benefits for human development. In this regard, we reiterate our support and respect for the principles and agreements that underlie the activities of space in the exploration and use of outer space, in particular, (a) universal access to outer space on the basis of equality for the benefit of all States without any type of discrimination, whatever their level of scientific and technological or economic development of countries, also its equitable and rational use; (b) the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies which cannot be the object of any type of appropriation by States, such as claims of sovereignty, use, occupation or in any other form; (c) the commitment of States to strictly use outer space for peaceful purposes will make sure that at all costs its

militarization is avoided; and (d) regional cooperation in promoting space activities.

Mr. Chairman, currently we are all witnessing a fast development of space activities and an ever-increasing use of outer space by countries, international organizations and private entities which could have a negative impact on the preservation of outer space as we know it today. If this development is not going hand in hand with an adequate legal framework that would regulate it from both ethical and legal perspectives, many of the issues we study here are already tackled by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS. For that reason, GRULAC believes it is indispensable that this Subcommittee step up its interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with a view to promoting the development of binding international norms that would support the legal framework adequate to such issues as the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, space debris and other matters since one of the principle responsibilities of the United Nations in the legal domain is to promote the progressive development of international law and its regulation and, in this case, it has to do with the environment and outer space.

Five, in this context, we would like to reiterate the fact that interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and this Legal Subcommittee should be strengthened with a mutual harmonizing the step-wise development of space law with the main scientific and technical advances in this regard. The Group believes that synergy between the two Subcommittees would promote a better understanding, acceptance and application of existing legal instruments of the United Nations.

The results obtained by Working Groups established by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee must be presented, officially so, to this Legal Subcommittee for its analysis. In this regard, the Safety Framework, with regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines are documents that can enrich the activities of the Legal Subcommittee.

Six, furthermore, with a view to establishing a multilateral legal framework that would regulate space activities and it would be adequate to the new scientific and technological breakthroughs and discoveries, GRULAC believes it is necessary to review, update and strengthen the five United Nations treaties on outer space with a view to invigorating the guiding principles that guide space activities of States, strengthen

international cooperation and make space technology available to our people.

This review and updating should not in any way be understood as something that might undermine the fundamental principles of the legal framework that already exists. On the contrary, it would be an enrichment and a further development in the application of these principles.

GRULAC is convinced that the treaties and principles established by the United States(?) Nations(?) for outer space activities are a good basis for the regulation, participation and responsibility of both governmental and non-governmental organizations in this sphere and also strengthen safety and security in outer space.

GRULAC believes that the legal regime regulating space activities would make sure that the benefits of space research and space activities improve the quality of life and the wellbeing of human beings towards the prosperity and wellbeing of the current and future generations.

GRULAC attaches particular importance to the issue of the use of the geostationary orbit which is of the greatest importance for the developing countries. Therefore, we hope that we will continue discussing this issue, seeking new points of consensus that would correspond to *sui generis* characteristics of this limited natural resource. Therefore, the Group supports the idea of setting up working groups or intergovernmental panels, both technical and legal, to study the equitable use of the geostationary orbit and encourages the International Telecommunication Union to step up its cooperation with COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. Chairman, our Regional Group plans to make statements on various specific agenda items in the course of these sessions to explain our regional positions in that regard.

I would not like to conclude, Mr. Chairman, without referring to an item that is of particular concern to us, namely the duration of the sessions of this Legal Subcommittee. It should remain unchanged for the following reasons.

We are convinced that there is a large number of issues to be discussed to ensure that the dominion of law in space activities, the progressive development of outer space law and the peaceful uses of outer space.

We note the existence of various globally important elements that acquire special relevance for developing countries, such as international cooperation, long-term sustainability of outer space activities, capacity-building, space debris, the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and others. They need to be tackled with some urgency. Therefore, every year new agenda items are proposed which, once approved, will require more time to be considered adequately. We are convinced that this Subcommittee has a historic mission which needs to be valued and highlighted, and for that reason, GRULAC believes it is indispensable that the duration of the session of the Legal Subcommittee remain unchanged.

Finally, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, let me once again declare our willingness to contribute to a productive debate during these sessions to make sure that it is concluded successfully. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Guatemala, on behalf of the Group of Latin American countries for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Japan.

Mr. T OSAWA (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. On behalf of the Japanese Government, I am very pleased to address the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. First of all, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to you, Dr. Brisibe, for your outstanding accomplishments last year as well as to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and her able and devoted staff for their untiring efforts in preparing this session.

Mr. Chairman, first, let me explain the restructuring of our governmental bodies for space policy formulation that took place last year.

The Government of Japan established the Office of National Space Policy under the Cabinet Office last July. The Office is expected to strengthen the governmental headquarters function for space policy. The Office will also have the role of implementing the development, deployment and operation of the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System, QZSS. Obviously the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is continuing to represent the Government of Japan in COPUOS meetings. We reaffirm our determination to significantly contribute to further strengthening and deepening the discussion in COPUOS.

The Basic Plan for Space Policy has just been renewed in January of this year and we will intensify our commitment to the utilization of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, Japan acknowledges the Legal Subcommittee is taking on the role as a unique platform for the discussion of legal aspects of the international cooperation for peaceful exploration and use of outer space. In this regard, we understand the importance of the new agenda item "Review of the International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space". We are of the view that it is meaningful to review and evaluate a number of existing cooperation mechanisms in order to further enhance space cooperation and we would like to contribute as much as possible.

We are very pleased to announce that Professor Setsuko Aoki of Keio University be a candidate for the Chair of the Working Group for this important new agenda item at the Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our most recent achievements in space.

First, astronaut Akihiko Hoshide completed his long-term stay on 125 days at the ISS in November 2012. Astronaut Koichi Wakata is planned to start a long-term stay at the ISS later this year. In addition, astronaut Kimiya Yui was selected as a ISS crew member for the forty-fourth/forty-fifth Expedition Mission last October.

The third H-II Transfer Vehicle, or HTV3, called KOUNOTORI-3 successfully completed its cargo transfer mission to the ISS in September 2012.

JAXA is now preparing the next mission, namely Hayabusa-2 to be launched in 2014 with an expected arrival at the target asteroid in 2018 and an expected return to Earth in 2020. Japan will continue to explore the solar system and challenged the frontiers of space.

In the field of Earth observation, the GCOM-W mission, namely Shizuku, which means water drop in Japanese, was launched last May for observing water circulation mechanisms. Since January, the data of the Shizuku have been available online free of charge and open to users for research purposes. These data will contribute to monitoring the environmental phenomena such as El Niño, La Niña and sea ice in the Arctic Ocean.

Lastly, the nineteenth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, or APRSAF, was co-hosted by Malaysia and Japan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 11-14 December, under the theme “Enriching the Quality of Life Through Innovative Space Programs”. I am very pleased to mention that this year the APRSAF will commemorate its twentieth anniversary at its next session in December.

Mr. Chairman, Japan would like to reiterate that in light of the ever-increasing scale of space activities, treaties are all the more indispensable for providing the necessary legal order and framework. We would, therefore, like to emphasize the need to use various forums, including the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, to call upon countries that are not yet party to these space-related treaties to ratify these treaties as soon as possible. Japan will support COPUOS initiatives to this end. Japan also suggests that the adoption of non-binding soft law is a realistic solution as it would further encourage countries to comply.

Mr. Chairman, in this regard, our delegation is pleased to propose that the Legal Subcommittee add to its agenda a new item under a multi-year Work Plan on “General Exchange of Information on National Implementation Measures for Non-Binding Instruments for Outer Space Activities”. My delegation will give a detailed statement later during the Subcommittee.

We are also pleased to announce that we will organize a seminar entitled “National and International Mechanisms of Space Law” on Tuesday, 16 April, starting at 1.10 p.m. in this room.

In this seminar, Professor Irmgard Marboe and Professor Setsuko Aoki will give presentations. The seminar will be followed by a reception. All delegations are cordially invited to both the seminar and reception on Tuesday, 16 April.

Mr. Chairman, our delegation is proud to support the initiative led by Dr. Horikawa, the Chair of COPUOS, and will work together with other members of the Committee to achieve tangible results through our discussions. Japan will further support reaching the goals of the Subcommittee to contribute to the continuing success of COPUOS.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of China.

Mr. H. BIN (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, please allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your continued chairmanship of the Legal Subcommittee, confident that under your guidance, this session will be a success.

I would also like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs Director, Dr. Othman, and her team for the large amount of work accomplished in preparing for this session.

Mr. Chairman, in 2012, China made progress in multiple areas of space activities. Twenty-eight spacecraft were successfully sent into space. The Shenzhou-IX spacecraft put the first female Chinese astronaut in space and successfully conducted both automatic and manoeuvred rendezvous and docking with the target Tian’gong-I spacecraft before returning safely to Earth.

China further advanced space applications in areas such as meteorology, oceanography, disaster prevention and mitigation and environmental monitoring and made significant progress in areas like the development of the Beidou satellite system, telecommunication satellites and remote sensing satellites, among others.

China continued to intensify the development of a space research system and endeavour to improve its space research capabilities focusing on deep space exploration, space debris and space weather.

At the same time, China has carried out international cooperation and exchange based on space law.

As a member of the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, China has on six occasions participated in emergency on-call duty and arranged in a timely fashion satellite imagery plans for affected regions. China has participated in IADC re-entry prediction campaigns for potentially hazardous objects to further promote and implement space debris mitigation measures.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation has always held the view that rule of law in outer space is the key to ensuring the peaceful use of outer space and achieving its long-term sustainable development. We highly evaluate the role of the Legal Subcommittee in promoting the development of rule of law in outer

space and believe that space activities of any country should be conducted in accordance with the treaties, principles and declarations of outer space.

We support the Legal Subcommittee in continued consideration of the legal issues arising from the peaceful use of outer space and development, when necessary, new legal instruments to keep the space law system current with the times.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation has noted that review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the exploration and the use of outer space will be considered as a new item for the first time in this session of the Legal Subcommittee. In our view, consideration of this item in the Legal Subcommittee will contribute to the implementation of a basic principle governing space activities established in the Outer Space Treaty, namely international cooperation. In this connection, we will share with other delegations China's practice in the field of international cooperation mechanisms through a Conference Room Paper to be distributed.

My delegation also hopes to step up exchanges with others, learn from one another and jointly explore effective mechanisms for cooperation to promote pragmatic cooperation in areas of long-term sustainable space development such as space debris and NEOs.

Mr. Chairman, the draft text of recommendations on national space legislation as an outcome document of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space represents one of the important results of the Legal Subcommittee's work in recent years and will contribute to capacity-building in space law in developing countries.

After agreement is reached on substance and form of the document, my delegation supports its adoption to serve as a reference for national space legislation.

Mr. Chairman, after successfully organizing the seventh ICG Meeting in Beijing last year, China will host, come September, the sixty-fourth International Astronautical Congress. We will welcome representatives of other countries to attend this gathering of the international space community in Beijing.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reaffirm once again our attachment to the development of a rule of law in outer space and our readiness to

strictly comply in our space activities with the basic principles of the space treaties and work together with other countries and international organizations towards an outer space of peace and development and based on a rule of law.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Austria.

Mr. P. BITTNER (Austria): Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me welcome you again as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. We are confident that our work during this session of the Subcommittee will greatly benefit from your skill and experience.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and her able and dedicated team for the invaluable assistance including in the preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman, Austria welcomes this year's symposium on the UNIDROIT Space Protocol organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law. The symposium will directly contribute to our exchange of views under agenda item 9 concerning the Space Protocol which was adopted at the Diplomatic Conference last year in Berlin.

Mr. Chairman, let me first turn to the agenda item "National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space. After several years of intensive and fruitful work, the Subcommittee was able to endorse the Final Report of the Working Group on the work conducted under its multi-year Work Plan at the end of last year's session. Discussions of the Working Group had enabled States to gain an understanding of existing national regulatory frameworks, share experiences on national practices and exchange information on national legal frameworks. The success of this work is due to the many valuable contributions of delegations and the constructive spirit in which our discussions took place.

The endorsement of the Final Report demonstrates once again that this Subcommittee is able to deliver highly useful results.

It remains for this year's session to consider how to proceed on the recommendations developed by

the Working Group. I may recall that these recommendations were endorsed by this Subcommittee last year.

The Chair of the Working Group, Professor Irmgard Marboe, further consulted the recommendations in the inter-sessional period in order to accommodate terminology and translation issues with some delegations. I hope that the text now before us will be acceptable for all delegations. Austria would strongly favour separate General Assembly resolution as this would better ensure the visibility of our work done in this Subcommittee.

I may reiterate that Austria has a specific interest in this agenda item as it was working on its own national space law during the past years. The work and findings of this Subcommittee's Working Group on National Space Legislation contributed substantially to the drafting of our law.

Finally, the Austrian Parliament unanimously adopted the Austrian Federal Law on the Authorization of Space Activities and the establishment of a National Space Registry, in short, Austrian Outer Space Act, in late 2011. Currently, the competent Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology is working on the necessary implementing ordinance, containing in particular the detailed requirements for the authorization of space activities and the relevant documentation to be submitted by the applicant. A first internal draft has already been tabled and is under consideration.

Background to these efforts to develop a national space law is a research project by Austrian and Canadian universities to investigate the brightness of massive luminous stars by differential photometry. In the framework of this project, the first two Austrian satellites, forming the BRITE Austria Constellation, were launched on 25 February 2013, that is, shortly after the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had ended its session.

For further details, I may refer to the presentation held by Professor Koudelka of the Technical University of Graz during the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on 21 February 2013.

Nevertheless, I may reiterate at this point that we are most grateful to India and its National Space Organization for providing launch facilities.

Finally, I would like to highlight that the results achieved under this agenda item are highly useful for both developing and developed States for

establishing or improving the necessary regulatory framework.

Mr. Chairman, let me turn to another agenda item to which Austria attaches importance, "Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space". Last year, we had a very good and productive discussion in the Working Group on issues relating to the Moon Agreement to the interpretation of the notions "damage" and "fault" in the Liability Convention, as well as to registration of space objects in the case of transfer of control and supervision. The set of questions prepared by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Jean-François Mayence, has proved to be an excellent framework to structure our debate. We are looking forward to continuing the discussion in this session. It will be of particular interest to focus specifically on these issues in relation to new developments in international law and the progressing privatization and commercialization of space activities.

We are also looking forward to starting the deliberations on the new topic on our agenda "Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space".

With regard to the item "Capacity-Building in Space Law", I would like to highlight Austria's continued support for activities in the area of space law. In particular, capacity-building is crucial for developing countries as it offers them legal tools to derive benefits from space activities and participate on an equal footing in international efforts towards the further strengthening of international space law.

As to Austria, the National Point of Contact for Space Law is supported by the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology and is currently headed by Professor Irmgard Marboe at the University of Vienna.

Space law forms part of the general course in international law which is a compulsory subject at all Austrian law faculties, that is, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Linz. In addition, some faculties offer specialized courses on space law as an optional subject.

On 27 November 2012, the National Point of Contact for Space Law Austria organized a conference about small satellites, one of Austria's priority areas within the Austrian Space Program, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna. A panel of experts in the fields of law, engineering and economics discussed "Potentials and Risks of Small Satellite Projects" from the perspectives of different disciplines.

Finally, I would like to point out that this year's CL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy will take place in Austria, in Klosterneuburg, near Vienna, between 1-14 September. It will be organized with the support of the National Point of Contact for Space Law Austria and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding, allow me to emphasize that the Austrian delegation will continue to provide strong support for the work and deliberations of the Subcommittee as well as to the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

In this spirit, we hope for a productive and rewarding fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Austria for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Germany.

Mr. R. LASSIG (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the German delegation would like to take this occasion to renew its highest gratitude to Dr. Tare Brisibe for his able leadership during the past session of the Subcommittee. We want to assure you, Dr. Brisibe, of our continuing support for your outstanding guidance.

Furthermore, the German delegation conveys its sincere appreciation to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and her capable team for the excellent inter-sessional work and the preparation of this session. We are looking forward to productive discussions and are prepared to make our contribution.

In the last meeting of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group on National Space Legislation finalized its report. The German delegation again expresses its gratitude to Professor Marboe for her able leadership of this Working Group and endorses the report as it stands.

Our delegation has taken note of the results of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, especially of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities. The German delegation attaches great importance to the increasing cooperation and coordination between the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to

improve the work of the United Nations COPUOS and to transfer the results of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee into a legal form for the benefit of consistency and content and legal terminology.

The reduction of space debris and the long-term sustainability of activities in outer space is of highest relevance. Therefore, Germany supports the initiative taken by the Czech delegation to transform the United Nations General Assembly Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines into a General Assembly resolution after these Guidelines will have been updated by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Since there are still no sufficient technical solutions for recovery missions, it is necessary to enhance technology in this respect. Germany wants to contribute to this technological challenge with its orbital servicing mission DEOS.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the German delegation would like to take the opportunity of this session to share its most recent achievements.

For European space-faring nations, the two-day ESA Council Meeting at Ministerial Level, which took place in November 2012 in Naples, was the prominent milestone. The European Space Agency has once again shown its capability to develop future space programmes and perspectives even under difficult economic conditions. In total, ESA member States, together with Canada, decided upon space programmes worth around 10 billion Euros. Germany will contribute around 2.6 billion Euros over the next few years. This makes Germany the strongest contributor among the ESA partners.

According to its Space Strategy, which was adopted at the end of 2010, the German Government remains committed to strengthening ESA as an intergovernmental institution. It is our firm conviction that an independent, strong ESA with its specific cooperation mechanisms, a fair division of costs and benefits, management tools adapted to the special demands of space projects and flexibility of optional programmes, continues to be essential to the success of the European space sector.

In addition to the strong commitment to the European Space Agency, Germany conducts a major part of its Space Programme by projects in bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Germany sets high value on international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Therefore, we welcome the new agenda item on the Work Plan "Review of the

International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space”.

In line with its efforts in international cooperation, the German Aerospace Centre, DLR, opened its new office in Tokyo in February 2013 with the objective of developing a strategic partnership with Japan. This will also intensify our cooperation across eastern Asia.

An example of successful Japanese-German cooperation is the MASCOT asteroid lander in the context of the Japanese Hyabusa-2 asteroid mission. This would be a bilateral cooperation on agency as well as university level.

As far as the United Nations space treaties are concerned, Germany welcomes the questionnaire on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, that was drawn up by the Chair of the Working Group, we have delivered written answers to this questionnaire in the years 2012 and 2013. The German delegation will actively participate in the discussion of the relevant Working Group.

Regarding the UNIDROIT Space Assets Protocol, we are pleased to announce that Germany signed this Protocol at the UNIDROIT seat in Rome on 21 November 2012. With this signature, Germany underlined its contribution to the development of the Cape Town Convention and all its three protocols. Following this event, Germany conducted demarches in capitals and invited the participating States of the Berlin Diplomatic Conference on February/March 2012 to adhere to this instrument.

Notwithstanding our great appreciation for the work of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee, the German delegation believes that its efficiency could yet be optimized. Without having formalized any suggestions so far, we have developed preliminary ideas. The main idea would consist in limiting the duration of the Legal Subcommittee to one week instead of two weeks.

We have heard the distinguished delegate of Guatemala, having spoken on behalf of GRULAC, and we respect and, of course, are aware of the high importance of all the Legal Subcommittee issues the distinguished delegate has mentioned. We believe, though, that all these issues could be dealt with in less time without affecting neither quality nor outcome of the discussions. I would highly welcome interested delegations views on this, be it in their general statements, be it in the margins of this Subcommittee.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude by drawing your attention to a particularly happy development in our efforts to give the evolution of space law additional momentum. I am pleased to inform you that Volume II of the Cologne Commentary on Space Law has recently been published. On this occasion, German Ambassador Konrad Max Scharinger, together with representatives from the German Aerospace Centre, would like to invite heads of delegations, as well as interested members of delegations to a reception. The reception will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, 9 April, at the Mozart Room, which is located just next to the VIC Restaurant and commence at around 5pm after the adjournment of the Committee's meeting on that day. You will find invitation cards in your respective delegations pigeonhole. We will have the unique opportunity to welcome at this reception all the editors of the Cologne Commentary on Space Law, who are, at the same time, members of the German delegation, Professor Hobe, Dr. Schmidt-Tedd and Professor Schrogl.

I am looking forward to meeting your tomorrow at this event.

Thank you for your kind attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Germany for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Armenia.

Mr. G. PILIPOSYAN (Armenia): Dear Chairperson, first of all, I would like to congratulate on behalf of my Government your election and express full support of the Armenian Government for your forthcoming activities.

Dear colleagues, it is a pleasure to participate in the name of Armenia to the works of this Subcommittee. Taking into consideration that Armenia, as a new member of the Committee, participates for the first time to the works of the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, COPUOS, I would like to state the following.

Noted the broad commitment to further the work in international and regional cooperation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space and to carrying out activities in outer space in accordance with the corresponding international legal regime. I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Armenian Government to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and emphasize the following

principles: equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space and equal conditions for all States, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, as well as the equitable and rational use of outer space, non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim or sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means, non-militarization of outer space, its exploitation strictly for peaceful purposes, and regional cooperation to promote space activities, as established by the General Assembly and other international forums.

We welcome initiatives that further contributed to the development of international space law to maintain long-term sustainability, safety, stability and security of space by establishing guidelines for the responsible use of space, in particular the development of an international Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.

Armenia already initiated internal legal procedures for ratification of five United Nations treaties on outer space, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Convention on International Liability for Damaged Caused by Space Objects, the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Summing up, I would like to state that Armenia, as a new member of the Committee, will actively participate in all events and meetings of COPUOS and its Subcommittees.

Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Armenia for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of the United States.

Mr. B. ISRAEL (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by commending you for your service as Chairman of this Subcommittee. My delegation is confident that under your leadership we will have a highly successful session and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

I would also like to express, once again, our deep appreciation to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Othman, for her diligent efforts and those of her staff to prepare for this session. It is a pleasure to be here in Vienna to be to meet with this distinguished group of legal experts. The Subcommittee's last session was a very productive one and we look forward to continued progress in addressing issues of practical concern to us all. COPUOS and the Subcommittee have a distinguished history of working through consensus to develop space law in a manner that promotes rather than hinders the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

In particular, the Subcommittee should be commended for its role in establishing the core treaties on outer space, the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability and Registration Conventions.

Under this legal framework, use of space by nations, international organizations and private entities has flourished. As a result, space technology and services contribute immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world.

This session is also an opportunity for us to consider the fact that many States have not acceded to the four core treaties, including some members of COPUOS. The Subcommittee should invite States and international organizations to consider ratifying and implementing the four core space law instruments and, of course, it should encourage States that have accepted the core instruments to fully implement them.

Before turning to the work of the Subcommittee for this session, I would like to comment briefly on recent space-related activities in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate for member States that the United States National Space Policy calls for increased emphasis on international cooperation to promote the peaceful use of outer space in a wide range of areas.

The United States is expanding its work in the United Nations and with other organizations and with other governments to address the growing problem of space debris and to promote best practices for sustainable use of space.

The United States will also pursue pragmatic bilateral and multilateral transparency in confident-

building measures to encourage responsible actions in, and the peaceful use of space. Such transparency and confidence-building measures mitigate the risk of mishaps, misperceptions and miscalculations in space.

During the past year, we have continued to witness extraordinary accomplishments in our quest to explore space. I will briefly note some specific activities in the United States Space Programme during 2012.

Eighteen different astronauts representing each of the five International Space Station partners flew aboard the Station last year. The 2012 Expeditions aboard the ISS including many research activities carried out at an unprecedented rate with as many as six crew members in orbit at a time and a visiting spacecraft traffic pattern that included the first United States commercial vehicle as well as European, Japanese and Russian re-supply missions.

ISS research activities over the last year are showing a number of significant benefits for humanity in the areas of human health, Earth observation, disaster response and education.

On 30 August 2012, NASA launched the Radiation Belt Storm Probes, recently renamed the Van Allen Probes, to study the two extreme dynamic regions of space surrounding Earth known as the Van Allen Radiation Belts. The mission, consisting of two identical probes, will also broadcast real-time space weather data that may help to further develop forecast models for space weather and lead to a design of spacecraft to better withstand the rigours of space.

The Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity Rover successfully landed on Mars on 6 August 2012 inspiring new excitement about space around the world. Since the Mars Science Laboratory arrived on Mars, it has found conditions once suited for ancient life, including evidence of water-bearing minerals in rock, clay minerals and an old stream bed on the Martian surface.

The Voyager 1 spacecraft, which launched in 1977, has entered a new region at the far reaches of our solar system the scientists believe is the final area that spacecraft will cross before reaching interstellar space.

New observations by the Messenger spacecraft provide a compelling support for the long-held hypothesis that Mercury harbours abundant water ice and other frozen volatile materials and it is permanently shadowed polar craters.

Hubble, with its stunning imagery, Spitzer, studying the Universe through its infrared eyes, Chandra, with its x-ray observatory, Kepler, discovering Earth-size planets, and Fermi, exploring the most extreme environments in the Universe, are all contributing enormously to the world's knowledge of outer space.

These missions and many more are unlocking the mysteries of our Universe for the benefit of all mankind.

In the Earth observation realm, the Suomi National Polar Partnership spacecraft, which launched on 28 October 2011, is in the final stages of its calibration and validation period. NPP is a polar orbiting weather and climate monitoring satellite that serves as a bridge between the current polar orbiting environmental satellite system in the forthcoming series of Joint Polar Satellite System satellites.

NPP is already improving weather forecast and advancing Earth and climate science. In December, scientists unveiled a Black Marble global composite image constructed using cloud-free night images from Suomi NPP showing the glow of natural human-built phenomena across the planet in greater detail than ever before.

NOAA's JPSS spacecraft, scheduled for launch in 2015, will carry the same suite of instruments as the Suomi NPP spacecraft. Additional free-flyer spacecraft will carry the Advanced Data Collection System communications payload, the transmitters and receivers for Satellite-Based Search and Rescue System and the Total Irradiance Climate Sensor.

The next generation geostationary spacecraft, the GOES-R series, is on track for a 2015 launch. GOES-R will carry an Advanced Imager, improved space weather instruments and a brand new geostationary lightning mapper. Together, the new JPSS and GOES-R systems will provide unprecedented amounts of weather- and climate-related data to environmental and research communities worldwide.

NASA continues its leadership role in the international Earth science community as Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Strategic Implementation Team. CEOS consists of 30 national space agencies and 23 international organizations that coordinate civil space-borne observation of Earth. The Strategic Implementation Team is the strategic planning body of CEOS and NASA is implementing a CEOS Self-Study Initiative in addition to providing the CEOS Systems Engineering Office.

Through our participation in the Group on Earth Observations, we are supporting the GEO Data Sharing Action Plan which encourages other nations to share data from current and future satellite systems and to open up access to previously unavailable datasets. Coordinated efforts to make these data available are critical for advancing the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. The United States Geological Survey, or USGS, of the Department of the Interior, continues to operate the Landsat-7 satellite and make its data, plus image data from all previous Landsats, available to users worldwide. Landsat-5 will be decommissioned this year after nearly 29 years of successful operation and 2.6 million land surface images, captured and down-linked to receiving stations around the world. Landsat provide essential information for land surface monitoring, eco-systems management, disaster mitigation and climate research.

NASA and USGS worked in partnership to develop the space and ground systems for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission launched in February of this year from California. It is presently undergoing on-orbit checkout, will subsequently be renamed Landsat-8, and will continue the collection of moderate resolution land imagery that began in 1972. The USGS will make image data freely available to users worldwide through a web interface.

As we proceed with our work at this session, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reflect once again on the extraordinary record of success this Subcommittee has had in advancing the field of space law. I believe that much of the success is due to the Subcommittee's ability to focus on practical problems and to seek to address any such problems via a consensus-based and results-oriented process. In our discussions, we should aim to continue that tradition and to avoid the temptation to focus on theoretical rather than practical issues. In addition, the Subcommittee's success may be attributed to its avoidance of protracted debate on extraneous political issues.

Thank you for your consideration. My delegation looks forward to a productive and collegial session.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Ecuador. I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Ecuador.

Mr. D. STACEY MORENO (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, let me congratulate you on our appointment as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. We are convinced that under your leadership, this Subcommittee will reach the objectives set before us. On the other hand, let me convey our recognition to members of the Bureaux, Madam Mazlan Othman and, most particularly, thank the Secretariat for the efficient work carried out in preparing this session.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Guatemala, on behalf of GRULAC.

Mr. Chairman, my country is a full-fledged member of COPUOS since 1977. It has fully taken part in the work of the Subcommittee and has made a positive contribution to the development of international space law. One of the objectives that motivated Ecuador in being active in COPUOS is the need to create an adequate international legal framework taking into account the legitimate interests of developing nations that would be unequitable(?) and fair fair work.

The Outer Space Treaty pointed out that all space activities should be carried out for the benefit of States regardless of their level of development. Principles were established with regard to the non-appropriation of outer space, international cooperation, access to scientific data, non-contamination, international responsibility, among others.

However, since the 1950s, human beings have proceeded with outer space activities but as a result of those activities, not all of humankind has benefited from the exploration and use of outer space. These activities carried out by various actors, State and non-State, have not always led to the collective interest. We would like to particularly underscore the fact that these technological advances have not been translated either into prosperity or major advantages for developing countries. In this context, it would be necessary to step up work to seek adequate mechanisms that would establish a necessary balance between the countries involved in outer space activities and the benefits that these activities must produce for all of humankind.

Among other things, we need a legal regulatory framework that would ensure the equitable access of States to outer space resources, that outer space activities should be based on the principle of non-appropriation. So far, ethical considerations have

taken a back seat. Not all countries have the science and technology required to pursue outer space activities. However, they have the dynamic right for equitable and fair access to the benefits. These benefits should be extended to those countries that have not reached very high levels of development. Interaction between norms and facts as they exist for us, Ecuador, bring to mind the need to work harder for greater fairness on a humanitarian basis recalling the fundamental principle that outer space is the province of all mankind, common heritage which needs to be used for the benefit of all, particularly at this time when we witness an increasing commercialization of outer space that is not imbued with this humanitarian principle of equality and fairness.

It is indispensable that the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space should continue its analysis of the dynamics involved in these processes. My country has pronounced itself for a single legal regime governing the navigation of all space objects. So we believe it would be appropriate to mention there is a serious legal gap, both in regard to the regulation of outer space and air space that needs to be addressed. Ecuador encourages all countries to continue working on this issue based on the compilation of responses to the questionnaire distributed by the Secretariat among States which has great value for the expanding and updating the existing outer space treaties in this regard.

Ecuador attaches great importance to the issue of the use of the geostationary orbit which is of particular importance to developing countries such as Ecuador. We believe it should continue to be discussed in a broad framework in search for new points of consensus that would be adequate to the *sui generis* characteristics of this limited natural resource.

My delegation needs to reassert that the issue of the geostationary orbit must be regulated by a special legal regime since this is a *sui generis* natural resource, access to which or the use of which must be equitable and accord priority to developing countries, particularly countries with specific geographic situations that need access to this resource for common interest.

All debates on the definition and delimitation of outer space have an impact on the regulation of geostationary and that a special regime is a priority.

Mr. Chairman, Ecuador is a country that has outer space-related interests in terms of human development and in this regard my delegation would like to inform the Subcommittee that my country thus

continue the important work in terms of research as part of the international space science effort to deepen and expand analysis carried out by competent academic institutions and several society. The Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Space Conference of the Americas has provided a necessary catalyst for the setting up of a space entity in Ecuador. After legal, scientific and organizational analysis carried out since 2012, the Ecuadorian Government set up an Ecuadorian Space Institute, a public body that will coordinate all work related to outer space in our country such as scientific research of outer space and near-Earth space, the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space, coordination of programmes and projects in conformity with the objectives of national development, applied research in terms of Earth observation, remote sensing and geographic positioning systems, thematic studies in support of sustainable development, equitable and sustainable use of natural resources and the equitable use of the geostationary orbit.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me underscore that this is evidence of the unshakable commitment of the Government of Ecuador to reach real and beneficial integration in outer space.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Ecuador for his statement and would like to request if there are any delegations wishing to address the Subcommittee or take the floor on this agenda item at this time.

Distinguished delegates, as I indicated earlier in my opening address, we are striving to use the resources of the Subcommittee as efficiently as possible and we do have a significant amount of time even though we would also accommodate, as I have been informed, a request from the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to briefly address the Legal Subcommittee. Having said that, and given the exhaustion of member States wishing to take the floor on item 3 at this time, I would reiterate if, at this time, there are delegations that would already be willing to address the Subcommittee on the general exchange of views.

Very well then. Distinguished delegates, as I have just indicated, I have received a request from the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the opportunity to briefly address the Legal Subcommittee in the time left for this morning's meeting.

Therefore, if there are no objections, I would like to give the floor at this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and on behalf of the Subcommittee, invite her to deliver her statement.

Ms. M. OTHMAN (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Office, I warmly welcome you all to the fifty-second session of this Subcommittee. I would like to express our pleasure, Mr. Chairman, at having you chair the session again and would like to convey our commitment to assisting you in making this meeting a success.

Distinguished delegates, thank you for giving me this opportunity to address the Legal Subcommittee in order for me to review the work of the Office relating to its national space law over the last year and to touch on plans for the future.

I wish to begin with information related to an important administrative change within the Office that has occurred since the Committee last met. In order to better reflect the full range of responsibilities and work carried out by this section, as you know, that was known as the Committee Services and Research Section, as of 1 January 2013, the name of this Section has officially been changed to Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section, abbreviated CPLA. This Section, under its new name, will continue to carry out its responsibilities with the same professionalism and dedication as before but it is our belief that this new name more accurately depicts the Section's work and role in carrying out the Office's overall legal and space policy-created work.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, during the last year, the Office continued to discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations treaties on outer space.

With regard to the United Nations Register on Objects Launched into Outer Space, maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, under the 1976 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and the General Assembly resolution 1721 of 20 December 1961, in the past year, the following member States have furnished registration information to the Secretary-General: Belarus, Canada, China, Chile, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela, as well as EUMETSAT.

Delegates may be interested to note that since 1961 approximately 93 per cent of all functional space objects, such as satellites, probes, manned spacecraft and Space Station components, have been registered with the Secretary-General.

Notwithstanding the progress being made, the Office would like to once again encourage all member States who have launched and/or operate space objects to register them with the Secretary-General in accordance with the Registration Convention or General Assembly resolution 1721B.

As delegates are aware, the Office has maintained a searchable online index of objects launched into outer space since 2001. We are deeply committed to ensuring we discharge our responsibilities within the mandates given to us in the most effective and efficient manner and we are pleased that the Register continues to enhance confidence amongst these actors by providing transparency through its mechanisms.

With regard to implementation of resolution 62/101 on registration practices, the Office continues its dialogue with member States and international intergovernmental organizations on these issues. It should be noted that the willingness to review and revise these practices has resulted in a greater number of States and intergovernmental organizations harmonizing their registration practices.

Article 2 of the Registration Convention on the Establishment of National Space Registries is often overlooked. The Office is, therefore, pleased to report that South Africa has recently informed the Secretary-General of the establishment of its National Registry. The Office would like to invite parties that have not done so to inform the Secretary-General accordingly.

In addition, the Office received and dissemination information provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 5 of the Rescue Agreement on the recovery of a space object within its territory.

The Office continues to serve as the United Nations focal point on re-entry of nuclear powered space objects for the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations. In this capacity, the Office maintains close contact with the Incident and Emergency Response Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the coordinating entity for the Plan and provides notifications of nuclear powered space objects, as well

as supplementary information on outer space objects re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, under its Capacity-Building Programme on Space Law, the Office continues to promote the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space to support the exchange of information on national space law and policy and to encourage the increase of education opportunities in space law.

In this regard, with respect to the status of the United Nations treaties on outer space, as of today, I wish to inform you that the accession of Qatar brought the number of States that have ratified the Outer Space Treaty to 102 and that 26 other States have signed the Treaty.

The Rescue Agreement has 92 States Parties and 24 Signatory States with Qatar acceding to it in 2012.

The Liability Convention has 89 States Parties and 22 Signatory States with South Africa acceding to it in 2012, thus changing the status from Signatory to Party.

The Registration Convention has 60 States Parties and four Signatory States with Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and South Africa acceding to it in 2012, and Lithuania acceding to it in 2013.

And the Moon Agreement has now 15 States Parties and four Signatory States with Saudi Arabia and Turkey acceding to it in 2012.

As part of its activities in the field of capacity-building in space law, in 2012 the Office organized, jointly with the Government of Argentina, the Argentinian Space Agency and the European Space Agency, a Workshop on Space Law. The Workshop was held in Buenos Aires from 5-9 November 2012 and it resulted in a set of recommendations, observations and conclusions addressing the contribution of space law to economic and social development, the global governance of space activities and the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies in fostering international cooperation in space activities.

The report from the Workshop is now available in document A/AC.105/1037 and I am also pleased to inform that the proceedings of the Workshops are being made available to you in a CD-ROM.

This Workshop was the eighth in a series of space law workshops which the Office has been co-organizing with various governments since 2002. This important note that these workshops are an integral part of the Office's efforts to build capacity in space law.

Now, distinguished delegates may recall that the Strategic Frameworks of the Programme of the Office for the periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 had several expected accomplishments. One of these is greater understanding, acceptance and implementation by the international community of a legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities. The space law workshops is one of the primary performance measures for indicating achievement of this expected accomplishment.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in connection with the practical and legal arrangements leading to holding of workshops, training courses and seminars organized by the Office on behalf of the United Nations and held away from established headquarters, I would like to draw to the necessity for the conclusion of an agreement exchange of letters. It has been mandated by the General Assembly in GA resolution 47/202 of 22 December 1992 and reflected in document ST/AI/342 of 8 May 1987 that such agreements must be concluded prior to the holding of these events. Hence, I would urge member States to be mindful that the Office will not proceed with such meetings in the future unless an agreement with the standard United Nations clauses, as outlined in the document I mentioned, is concluded at least three months before the anticipated date of the meeting to allow formal letters of invitation and other obligations to be carried out. Once firm deadlines for the conclusion of all legal arrangements, including agreements and exchange of letters, have been established, non-compliance could result in a postponement or cancellation of the events.

The Office is currently in discussion with the Government of Ghana regarding arrangements for holding special sessions dedicated to various aspects of space law on the margins of the Fifth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development which is planned to be held in the fall this year in Ghana.

As requested by the Subcommittee, the Office continues to work with experts on the development of a curriculum on space law for the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations. Currently this work focuses on harmonizing the content, language and structure of the

different parts of the draft curriculum. The existing materials have been put in a new format which brings consistency to the curriculum as a whole and introduces a clearer structure for the classes. When completed, the curriculum will be a concise and well-structured educational tool that can easily be used by educators with different professional backgrounds. In its support, the curriculum will have a web-based compilation of reading materials to be found on the website of the Office. This compilation will contain information when available on direct links to references and resources in the available languages of the United Nations. Updates will be made as new or additional materials identified which makes the curriculum as a whole a living dynamic online tool for education in space law.

The final version of the curriculum will be published online and placed on the dedicated curriculum webpage, together with the related materials in the course of this year.

Mr. Chairman, the Office continues to support other work of the Subcommittee in its efforts to build capacity in space law. This includes updating of the Directory of Education Opportunities in Space Law, the 2012 Edition will be before you in a Conference Room Paper and will be placed on the website of the Office, strengthening cooperation of our Office with space law entities and organizations with a view to contributing to worldwide efforts to promote understanding and the development of space law, and promoting the applications of international law and provision of technical assistance to governments on matters related to space law.

In relation to the Office's efforts in the field of capacity-building in space law, I wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Government of China for its generous offer to support the relevant activities of the Office with a contribution of US\$20,000.

I wish to also use this opportunity to thank the European Space Agency for its continuous financial support of workshops on space law be organized by the Office, as well as other activities being conducted under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, speaking of financial matters, I wish to inform you of the following.

While the Office hopes that it can continue to generate the same level of extra-budgetary support for

2014-2015, unfortunately the picture for the regular budget is somewhat grim. Last December, the Office submitted a no-growth programme budget proposal for the next biennium. However, following the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 67/248 of 24 December 2012, to cut the regular budget proposed by the Secretary-General by approximately US\$100 million, all programmes have been instructed to reduce their requirements. The cuts are being applied across the board. The impact on the Office is a number over \$200,000. Of this sum, not more than 30 per cent can be taken from non-post resources. What does this mean? This means that the Office will have to abolish a post in order to meet that level of reduction. We have assessed all functions and needs within the Office and are in communication with the Programme, Planning and Budget Division in New York. At this stage, I can inform you that the Office is going to have to surrender a Professional post from the Space Applications Section.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Office is pleased to inform the Subcommittee that it continues to update its space law-dedication web pages. Apart from providing member States with reference tools such as the online index of objects launched into outer space, the national space law database and the treaty status database, the website also provides texts of the treaties and relevant General Assembly resolutions and documents in all official languages of the United Nations.

The Office would like to take this opportunity to invite member States to continue providing us texts of their national space law and policies for inclusion in this website.

In the recent months, we have made a number of improvements of sections relevant to the work of the Legal Subcommittee, such as the enhancement of pages dedicated to sessions of the Subcommittee, the creation of a special page with the comprehensive collection of documents relating to the item on the definition and delimitation of outer space, introduction of an online tool for digital recordings of sessions and meetings, and in addition a webpage dedicated to matters relating to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

We also continue to add documents to our website entitled "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space Travaux Préparatoires". As of today, the collection contains official records of the negotiations for the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention, the Moon Agreement and the first set of Principles adopted by

the General Assembly on Outer Space, namely the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space. The collection now consists of more than a thousand documents and continues to be updated. Each treaty and declaration has an individual webpage containing a collection of corresponding documentation. The documentation is organized by the series symbol and within each series it is listed chronologically. In addition, for each treaty and declaration, a spreadsheet version of the list of resources is available at the top of the page which will enable the user to sort the documents by date or by document symbol.

The immediate next step is to include the preparatory works for the Registration Convention so that all five treaties will then be covered.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, at this stage I would like to remind delegations that according to the Agreement of the Committee, A/58/20, Annex I, Appendix 1 and 2, nominations for the Bureaux of the Committee and its Subcommittees for the period 2014-2015 should be finalized at the upcoming session of the Committee in June 2013. At its fifty-fifth session in June 2012, the Committee noted that the African States endorsed the candidature of Azadeen Ousadik(?) from Algeria for the Office of Chair of the Committee.

The Latin American and Caribbean States had decided that Ecuador would nominate its representative for the office of First Vice-Chair of the Committee.

The Eastern European States had endorsed the candidature of Elod Both from Hungary for the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The Western European and Other States had endorsed the candidature of Kai Uwe-Schrogl of Germany for the office of the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee.

And that the Asian States would nominate their candidate for office of Second Vice-Chair or Rapporteur of the Committee.

As of today, this status remains unchanged and I wish to urge regional groups concerned to make their decisions and to update the Committee accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, 2013 is another important year for the space community as we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the first spaceflight by a woman, namely cosmonaut Valentina

Tereshkova. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space noted this remarkable discovery and at its fifty-fifth session in 2012 agreed that a half day event should be organized by the Office to address the contribution of women to space activities. I am pleased to inform you that cosmonaut Tereshkova herself is planning to pay a visit to Vienna and take part in the panel that will take place on 12 June this year during the fifty-sixth session of the Committee. The panel will consist of prominent women in the space-related fields of space exploration, science, technology, education, business and policy. They will speak in the context of "Space: Building the Future Today".

The Office also plans to organize a public evening event on this occasion that cosmonaut Tereshkova and other female astronauts and cosmonauts on 13 June.

This Friday, 12 April, the International Day of Human Space Flight, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011, will also be dedicated to the topic of women in space. The Office will take part in a joint event in the Vienna Planetarium organized on 12 April.

The United Nations Department of Public Information, DPI, also plans to hold a briefing in observance of the International Day of Human Space Flight and the fiftieth anniversary of women in space on 11 April at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. DPI has indicated that, together with United Nations women, they will promote cosmonaut Tereshkova's achievements throughout the world in the context of women's striving for excellence.

Mr. Chairman, please allow me to use this occasion to inform the distinguished delegates of this august body that this is the last time I will be acting in my capacity as Director of the Office at the Legal Subcommittee meeting. I would like to say what an immense pleasure it has been for me to be part of this team of the Office in supporting your work. The Legal Subcommittee has seen indispensable outcomes that provide a crucial basis for our activities in outer space. I am confident that the Legal Subcommittee will not only continue to formulate the necessary regulatory frameworks but will also provide the guiding light and the compass for the way forward. I should add that lawyers are definitely among my group of interesting and best friends, many of whom are in this room. I hope to continue to be in touch with you all.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, let me reaffirm the Office's commitment to serving the interests of member States in the area of space law.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for her informative statement and distinguished delegates if you will please allow me to, on your behalf, express the deep appreciation and gratitude of the Subcommittee to the outgoing Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and through which the efforts of her staff and the Secretariat have continued to support the activities of the Committee and both its Subcommittees in an exemplary fashion. Thank you again.

Having called for delegations to continue addressing the Subcommittee with respect to item 3, General Exchange of Views, the next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. K. CHOI (Republic of Korea): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to express pleasure at seeing you again following the fifty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee presiding over this fifty-second session as the Chairman. On behalf of the Korean delegation, I wish you every success and assure you that my delegation will continue to support your ceaseless and active efforts all during your chairmanship.

The Korean delegation also would like to express gratitude to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as her staff in preparing all the documentation and meetings necessary for this session.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, space activities already constitute one of vital and indispensable elements to all human life ranging from navigation, telecommunications and Earth observations to natural resource measurement, agriculture, climate change monitoring, medicine, entertainment and so on. The international legal framework under the United Nations has been playing a leading role by facilitating such space activities. Nonetheless, there is no denying the fact that we are faced with various challenges in ensuring the long-term sustainable, secure and safe activities in the exploration and use of outer space, least to mention the new legal issues arising from the changing and evolving space activities.

In that connection, my delegation highly appreciates the role and achievements of the United

Nations COPUOS, in particular its Legal Subcommittee in reaching the conclusion and adoption of the United Nations treaties and principles on space law and providing the forum for continuing discussions in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, as a party to the four space treaties, the Republic of Korea has been an active promoter of acceptance and implementation of international space agreements. For the purpose of compliance to the space treaties, to which Korea is a State Party, Korea established a legal framework on space activities through a set of national legislations notably the Space Development Promotion Act of 2005 and the Space Liability Act of 2007. Such a legal framework, including the decrees and rules attached to the aforementioned law has been appropriately maintained and modified in request of the changing environment.

Mr. Chairman, taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to briefly share with you the recent progress that Korea has achieved as well as its future plans in space activities.

Recently, Korea accomplished a series of successful missions and reconfirmed its objectives to forward its Space Programme.

Most notably, Korea achieved a successful launch of its first space launch vehicle marking a historic moment in its space technology development. On 30 January 2013, the Korea Space Launch Vehicle, namely KSLV-1, was launched for the third time from Naro Space Centre on Oenaro Island, located on the southern side of Korea, successfully placing a scientific satellite of 100 kilogram mass called Naro Science Satellite into a low-Earth orbit. The event captured the public's attention and was widely celebrated as a national achievement. Having served the launch demonstration purpose, the satellite continued to remain in orbit to perform scientific investigations using instruments onboard. As the KSLV launch vehicle was developed under the technical management of the Korea Aerospace Research Institute in close cooperation with Russian partners, we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Russia for their due contribution to the project.

Building on the achievement of the KSLV-1, Korea plans to further its space launch capability by developing its successor, tentatively called KSLV-2. Initiated in 2011, the KSLV-2 programme aims to develop a space launch vehicle capable of launching a 1.5 ton-class satellite into a low-Earth orbit.

As for the satellite programme, in May 2012, Korea successfully launched KOMPSAT-3 from Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan. The successfully launched KOMPSAT-3 is the latest in the KOMPSAT series of remote sensing satellites developed by Korea. With its high-resolution electro-optical camera it provides 0.7 metre resolution optical satellite imagery to be used for multi-purposes.

The satellite is now normally operated in conjunction with KOMPSAT-2 which continued to operate since 2006, outliving its designed life span for more than three years. In addition, COMS, Korea's geostationary satellite launch in 2010 also remains in orbit and continues its mission in meteorology and ocean study. This satellite will be added this year by KOMPSAT-5, Korea's first radar Earth observation satellite and KOMPSAT-3 the latest in the series of science and technology satellites.

KOMPSAT-5, carrying a synthetic aperture radar SAR, will serve the GOLDEN mission. GOLDEN means Geographical Information System, Ocean Monitoring, Land Management and Disaster and Environment Monitoring.

The next in line, KOMPSAT-3A, equipped with an infrared payload will further enhance Korea's satellite remote sensing capability when launched next year.

In addition to the existing series of satellites, Korea plans to introduce a new line of small- and medium-size satellites in the coming years. The next generation satellites will adopt a standard platform enabling the satellites with a mission-specific payload to be integrated rapidly at a lower cost. They will also serve as a platform to demonstrate new technology and a test best for space system parts and components.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to emphasize at this point that Korea's development of space technology is aimed at serving its people as well as international citizens and the betterment of humanity as a whole. As such, Korea takes part in international activities in utilizing the space technology for social economic development and humanitarian aids. For example, KARI makes its satellite data available for disaster management purposes through the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters. Over the last year, KOMPSAT-2 captured satellite footage of more than 40 disasters including the flooding in Russia, Senegal, Niger, Cameroon, India and Chad, and the earthquake in Iran. In addition, Korea actively participates in regional cooperative schemes such as Sentinel Asia and APRSAF. Most

recently, in November 2012, KARI hosted a Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia dealing with disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Chairman, it is our delegation's view that in addition to contributing to international cooperative activities, Korea could play an additional role within the international space community by helping other latecomer countries in the space field. Korea initiated its Space Programme in the 1990s and has made progress in acquiring and utilizing some of the key space capabilities in the past three decades.

As one of the latecomer catch-up countries, Korea could serve as an exemplary model for other nations in need of space capabilities. In this connection, the Korea Aerospace Research Institute introduced an international space training programme in 2010. In May 2012, the third training programme was held with 20 participants from 11 countries: Costa Rica, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam. KARI's training programmes offers a wide range of courses in satellite systems, satellite applications, space science and space policy. The fourth international training programme will be held from 22 April to 4 May 2013. We open this training programme to all countries in need of space experts, hence, participation from all interested member States will be welcomed.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude my remarks by reiterating my Government's full commitment to the collective efforts of the international community to establish a legal regime for outer space that benefits all mankind.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

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

Distinguished delegates, in the absence of delegations wishing to further take the floor on this item as the list of States and organizations I have here is exhausted, I do not have a choice but to proceed now to adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee but also to take the opportunity to reiterate my statement in the opening address I made earlier that we strive to utilize to the best of our ability the resources that we have during the course of this session of the Subcommittee efficiently.

As a consequence, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee. Before doing so, may I remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. I will then suspend the meeting of the Subcommittee to allow time for the symposium.

The 860th meeting of the Subcommittee will be adjourned at the conclusion of the symposium.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

Today, during lunchtime, from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., there will be an informal coordination meeting of the ESA/IRC. The meeting will be held in meeting room MOE100 in this building.

I would also like to inform delegations that the provisional list of participants for this Subcommittee's session will be distributed in the first half of the week. I would request all delegations that have not done so already to send an official letter with the names of their representatives to the Secretariat as soon as possible so they can be included on this provisional list of participants.

This meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 12.26 p.m.