

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

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912<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Wednesday, 22 April 2015, 3.00 p.m.

Vienna

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*Chairman: Mr. K-U Schrogl (Germany)*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.17 p.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Good afternoon distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 912<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon, we will reopen item 8, Capacity-Building in Space Law, to hear statements upon requests from delegations. We will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 9, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, and continue our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Items to be Considered by the Subcommittee.

We will hear two technical presentations. First, the representative of Spain entitled "Regulatory Aspects of Small Satellite Remote Operations in Radio Amateur Bands", and second, by a representative of Japan entitled "Japan's Capacity-Building in Space Law: Recent Progress".

**Capacity-building in space law (agenda item 8)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to reopen item 8 on our agenda, Capacity-Building in Space Law, so that two delegations can still make their statements.

First on my list is the distinguished delegate of Costa Rica. You have the floor.

**Ms. P. SABORÍO DE ROCAFORT** (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman. This is the first time that I am taking the floor and, therefore, I would like to begin by extending my congratulations to you on the excellent manner in which you are conducting the work of this Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. I would like to say also that you can count on our full support and we fully believe that our work will be crowned with success.

We would like to commend also the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Madam Simonetta Di Pippo, and also commend the Secretariat. Our thanks go to the Secretariat for the excellent work carried out in preparing this session.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would also like to endorse the statement delivered on the various agenda items by the G77 and China and GRULAC. I do believe that it is necessary to strengthen international cooperation for capacity-building. Costa Rica believes that capacity-building, training and education in the area of space law are of great importance if we are to make progress with national, regional and international initiatives, the objectives of these initiatives being to focus on space technologies and science and practical aspects thereof. This is really essential for those countries that are making efforts in this area and it is for this reason we support, or rather encourage the Secretariat to continue exploring the implementation and creation of new cooperation agreements with national institutes in the area of public education as well as private bodies and interregional bodies with a view to promoting capacity-building and space law activities.

The recent Meeting on Space Capacity-Building which took place in Costa Rica is an example of the type of activity that can be carried out within the Latin American region. In this connection, we would like to express thanks to the Secure World Foundation Society for their support and for the Inter-American Society for Aeronautics in Space also. Activities of this type which focus on space law, *inter alia*, are particular important for developing countries.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Madam Ambassador for your statement on behalf of Costa Rica.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Morocco. You have the floor.

**Mr. S. RIFFI TENSAMANI** (Morocco) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Chairman. Mr. Chairman, capacity-building in the area of space law is of great interest for the users of space technologies in Morocco. Capacity-building cannot be achieved without international cooperation and without the help of United Nations bodies such as the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as regional and international institutions specialized in this area.

It is for this reason that we would like to see the creation of a shared and equitable mechanism at the regional and international levels for the exchange of information on space policy and space law. We are seeing an increased frequency of events such as training and workshops at the national and regional levels as well as regional workshops and the use of existing cooperation mechanisms to raise awareness in the user community on space policies and legal matters. These are excellent tools to promote knowledge and awareness of space law in all regions, particularly in Africa. Promotion of space law in this region can only be achieved via mechanisms of international cooperation already existing.

Mr. Chairman, Morocco, via its Royal Centre for Space-Based Remote Sensing, continues to promote knowledge of space law by providing introductory courses on space law within the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology in Rabat and by encouraging the hosting of workshops in Africa on various aspects of space activities, both scientific, legal and technical.

Thank you.

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

So, therefore, we can conclude our consideration of agenda item 8, Capacity-Building in Space Law.

**Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (agenda item 9)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 9, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

I have one speaker on my list and this is the distinguished delegate of Venezuela. You have the floor.

**Ms. A. CAMPOS** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman. For my delegation, this agenda item is of particular importance. It concerns the possible review of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and particularly bearing in mind the new applications of space activities and bearing in mind the international recommendations on safety and environmental protection. I believe that this matter is of great importance.

Bearing in mind the previous statements that we have had, we can recognize the Principles on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and other international principles, particularly with respect to the safe use of these sources of energy, are important. There is no doubt that all of these Principles are progress. That they move forward space law. This being the case, these Principles are not sufficient to protect human life, peace and the environment. Consequently, we are of the view that all principles, standards and technical regulations and all instruments related to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, must be in compliance with international law, must be in compliance with the United Nations Charter, and must be compliance with the United Nations treaties on space.

It is for this reason that my delegation would like to say that we believe it is necessary to use nuclear power sources in outer space so as to render certain inter-planetary missions viable but we must focus on research because research will enable us to optimize the use of other power sources, safer power sources, more effective power sources. We believe also that we need to have an international legal framework for this.

It is for this reason that I would like to come back to what is stated in Principle III of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. Here we have criteria on how these power sources should be used in a safe manner. It is stated that the use of nuclear power sources in space must be limited to space missions that cannot otherwise function with non-nuclear power sources. It is for this reason that we believe that it is particularly risky to use nuclear power sources in Earth orbit. There have been problems in the past. Collisions are a possibility and this is a threat for humanity, for the environment and for the Earth's biosphere. So it is inadmissible to use nuclear reactors or any other source of nuclear power in Earth orbit.

For this reason, we would like to insist, as we have stated in paragraph 130 of the report of the Subcommittee during the fifty-third session in 2014, and as we indicated, as it was stated in the report, we would like to reiterate that this type of practice needs to be changed. We need to change the Principles on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Space and in particular Principle III, Guidelines and Criteria for the Safe Use, here we need to delete Point “ on Nuclear Reactors and (a) and 3(i) we need to delete 3 on Nuclear Reactors and (a) on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Earth Orbit. Any use of nuclear power sources in space must respect the Principles of Protection of Life and Peace.

By way of conclusion, we would like to say that we need to focus on research. We need to optimize the use of this energy. It is absolutely necessary to promote the elaboration of binding international norms and standards that would regulate the use of nuclear power sources in space. We believe that the current Principles and the current Safety Framework needs to be respected and, all of this being the case, we have not yet proceeded with the legal analysis of these Principles within the Subcommittee.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegate of Venezuela for her statement.

Next on my list is the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands.

**Mr. H. VAN DEN OOSTERKAMP** (Netherlands): Thank you Chairman. I would like to be short. Reference was also made this morning to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee which was held in February this year, in 2015. During that Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, an interesting suggestion was done to erect an independent nuclear safety panel for all missions who use nuclear energy in order to ensure that all safety prescriptions are to be followed.

The Netherlands do have a preference for a binding instrument but if that is not feasible, we could also support a non-binding instrument.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Netherlands.

Any other delegation wishing to speak before we conclude our consideration under this item?

I see none.

So we have, therefore, concluded our consideration of agenda item 9, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

**Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee (agenda item 13)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Items to be Considered by the Subcommittee.

And as you recall at the outset, I proposed to have a number of sub-points to this agenda item and the first of these sub-points is the evaluation of digital recordings.

We will consider this item now, or this sub-item now, on the basis of document L.282, and I hope delegations have before them this document, L.282. And I am pleased to invite Mr. Imre Karbutzky, Chief of Conference Management Services of the United Nations Office in Vienna, to update the Subcommittee on the use of those recordings, and I remind you that we have to find a conclusion on this issue.

I give you the floor.

**Mr. I. KARBUTZKY** (Chief, Conference Management Services, United Nations Office at Vienna): Thank you Sir and thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you again.

I will give a little bit of the reminder of the background of this project and how it came about, some usage figures, statistics and about the future of the tool and the project.

Since in the past I had a chance to demonstrate the application itself, I am not going to repeat that unless there are questions or requests from the floor to point out this or that feature of the tool itself.

As I am sure many users in the room will agree, this digital recording system offers a viable alternative to written meeting records. Its advantages in terms of efficiency and cost-effectiveness are many-fold. It is inexpensive at the time when we developed it a couple of years ago. It required a one-time five months development effort which cost around \$40,000 at the time.

Now the tool is built on a global application. It is called E-MEETS which is an application used by all four Duty Stations for scheduling, planning and servicing meetings in New York, Geneva, Nairobi and here in Vienna. So the tool can be accessed from any Duty Station and is available to any United Nations body.

The digital audio files present a fully authentic audio recording, the four languages that is. The recordings are immediately available unlike the written meeting records, the summary records, verbatim records or unedited transcripts which are produced some times weeks or months after the meeting and at a great cost.

In addition, intergovernmental bodies that currently receive no meeting records would also take advantage of the digital recordings, making these an absolute plus for those bodies.

The return on the original investment was double in savings already in the first year, for the first user, COPUOS, by providing the digital recording instead of the six language unedited transcripts, savings of about \$80,000 were realized in Document Processing in one year.

The Secretariat and delegates, as we can see from our usage statistics, are using the system quite a bit with hundreds of visits and downloads of the digital files a month, and around the session mostly. In 2013-2014, from 116 member States, we have received hits on the application. A feedback from the Secretariat is positive. For member States we have received no complaints so far, only some good suggestions. We ran a survey two years which elicited very little feedback actually but that feedback was overwhelmingly agreeable and positive. Some requested that the speed of the access and the download should be improved on which, in the meantime, we did because we moved our whole data storage to a more modern data sample.

As you know, this pilot period of COPUOS, and I must add also UNICITRAL, around until this year, and then the assessment is done by the bodies who have been using this tool. In addition to these United Nations bodies, UNIDO also decided to introduce digital recordings to replace the summary records that they have been receiving and they started this last year. From their perspective, it was clearly a financial saving measure.

The digital solution brings many advantages in addition to considerable savings. This cost-effective

and efficient and instantly available green solution is an option for all bodies not only the select group entitled to written meeting records. The tool is available at any United Nations body and those which decide to use digital recordings to replace written meeting records opt for a more sustainable conference servicing in the United Nations and they also contribute to reforming the way we operate and to reducing a significant part of our documentation workload.

In terms of the usage figures, as you may know, the digital recordings can be accessed through the Office for Outer Space Affairs website or through the VIC Online application which, again, I would like to bring to your attention. That application covers not just outer space but all the Vienna-based bodies, including UNIDO, CTBTO, and the International Atomic Energy Agency and it provides meetings and documentation information, including access to the digital recordings there.

But we had seen the access to the application through E-MEETS, as I mentioned, our Global Meetings Management System, is primarily from the Secretariat side and the numbers are respectively low because it is only a handful of people from the Outer Space Secretariat who access the recordings through E-MEETS, but on the Office for Outer Space Affairs website, April last year, there were close to 500 visits. The year before, over 700 visits and through the VIC Online application last year, there was also 700 visits to the recordings of outer space.

The future depends on your decision today. If COPUOS decides to continue with this project as a result of this pilot, then, of course, we would be happy to continue providing it for you. It requires no additional involvement really. It is available in the system so it is a question you decide to go back to the unedited transcripts in six languages, which I mentioned, would be a costly decision, or continue with the digital recordings which are available and which we are committed to improve on. Based on the pilot project of COPUOS and UNICITRAL, we will also have to report to the General Assembly later this year under the pattern of conferences agenda item. We have to report on the human resources and legal and financial implications of this tool and that report will obviously create more interest outside of the United Nations as well. We have been requested by VIPER(?) and others and the International Atomic Energy Agency also to provide a tool for them.

Enhancements that we can anticipate could happen by, for example, the 'C' Building is having a

lot of modern sound technology here so with a bit of an investment, these microphone sets that you are using can be programmed so that they would recognize the badge of the speaker so that would eliminate the need for us to create the speakers log separately. If you go on to the system, you will see that there is a speakers log that is created with the help of automation but by the person who is switching the microphones. If we have a microphone, this log can be operated by swiping your badge when you first ask for the floor. That would also improve the accuracy of the speakers log. You might have seen and there is even a disclaimer stating that there could be up to a minute discrepancy between what the speakers log indicates as the time of the speaker compared to when actually on the recording, the speakers voice will appear. Certainly this would help make the speakers log also more accurate.

Technology is improving so we are hoping to have technology affordable to make the files searchable, if we could index the files. Currently this is a rather expensive proposition but we are sure in a couple of years that would become much cheaper.

And finally, the script that is prepared to assist your research of the digital recordings, we are making efforts to produce a script faster because, as I mentioned, the recordings are available practically the same day or the same afternoon or by the following morning. The English script, which facilitate your text search basically, could take up to a few months for us to produce, but we are willing to put more resources on it and produce it in a more condensed period of time.

That is all I wanted to tell you and I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr. Karbutzky for your presentation and the introduction to the digital recordings.

Are there any questions you would like to address to the Chief of Conference Management Services?

I see none.

Chile.

**Ms. T. ALVAREZ** (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman and many thanks for the very informative statement by the Chief of Conference Services. It was not quite clear to us,

based on the experience in other Vienna-based organizations, typically Permanent Missions are informed on an ongoing basis in the intersessional period about these things. I do not know why we have to take the time away from our regular session of COPUOS to get this information. Why can it not be done via Permanent Missions as is done by the IAEA, for example?

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Chile.

Any other delegation wishing to ask questions?

I see none. So I pass to the Chief.

**Mr. I. KARBUTZKY** (Chief, Conference Management Services, United Nations Office at Vienna): Yes, thank you very much. Indeed, on a yearly basis, we are holding informational meetings with the member States and I presented the application, the VIC Online application at maybe two of those meetings encouraging Missions and also the Secretariat to log on to that application at MyConference@UNOV.org. Nevertheless, it was a decision three years ago by the Subcommittee and by COPUOS that you wanted to evaluate this pilot project during your session and I think that at that time it was put on the agenda so that is why, I think, I am also here now and not in between those sessions.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

Now I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 6 of that paper, L.282, where you find the outline of that process under sub-paragraphs (a) to (d), and we have reached now sub-paragraph (e) where we are required to make a decision. Now the decision has to be, or should be, to keep on going with the digital recordings and not to return to the unedited transcripts.

Is there agreement on this? This is the decision we have to take.

I see no objections.

*It is so decided.*

I thank you very much for your introduction and we are looking forward to continue on that basis, and myself, I had a look on the tool and I must say it is

really excellent and if it can even be developed further, this will be of great benefit to the delegations.

Thank you very much indeed. Thank you.

We now turn to the second element of agenda item 13 and these are the concrete proposals regarding the working methods as well as new agenda items and, as with our first session, I will look at this in the chronological order of the submission of these respective working papers. So we will first deal with the proposal by Germany to restructure the work of the Legal Subcommittee, contained in L.293/Rev.2. Then we will turn to the proposal by Germany on a new single issue item for discussion, contained in CRP.13, and then we will look into the proposal by GRULAC, presented by Brazil, and a new single issue item for discussion, contained in CRP.23/Rev.1.

I hope you have all the documents before you so that we can start with the proposal by Germany to restructure the work of the Legal Subcommittee, contained in L.293/Rev.2.

And I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. C.-H. MOELLER** (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as announced last Friday, I would like to come back to our proposal for a renewal of the agenda structure and organization of work of the Legal Subcommittee. Before doing so, I would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations for the many encouraging expressions of support.

However, we also noted certain reservations expressed by some delegations and we are very mindful of these concerns.

Since we were asked to explain once again the central elements of our proposal, I will briefly outline the two most fundamental changes we propose while, at the same time, trying to answer all the questions put forward by different delegations during our deliberations last week.

Mr. Chairmen, distinguished delegates, what is this proposal about? It is basically, it is about making more efficient use of the time and resources available to the Legal Subcommittee, thereby maintaining and strengthening the Legal Subcommittee as the main intergovernmental forum to develop space law.

The two basic measures we propose are, first, a restructuring of the agenda and, second, a phased

approach for the two-week session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Firstly, the restructuring of the agenda. The most salient feature of the agenda structure according to our proposal would be a new standing agenda item with an associated permanent working group, covering non-binding instruments. The combination of two central permanent items, covering binding and non-binding instruments respectively, could incorporate a number of current agenda items, thereby streamlining the agenda. The new agenda structure would, therefore, comprise only four agenda items. Firstly, the general exchange of views, second, the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space and other legally binding instruments, third, status and application of non-binding instruments on outer space, and lastly, capacity-building measures.

Secondly, the phased approach for the two-week session. Under the phased approach for the two-week session, the first week would mainly be dedicated to preparatory groups and the second one to the formal deliberations of the working groups. We believe that this would considerably help to intensify and to concentrate discussions, as well as to add quality to the formal deliberations, including to the working groups, due to prior work conducted within the preparatory groups.

I know that this part of our proposal has raised the most concerns among delegations so please allow me to elaborate in greater detail on this point. Our very first proposal put forward last year provided for a split between expert groups being composed of experts, on the one hand, and working groups being composed of government representatives, on the other hand. We understood that this approach met considerable concerns by some delegations, so we changed our concept with regard to this particular point. Our revised, or current proposal Rev. 2, provides now for preparatory groups meeting during the first week and working groups meeting in the second week. I would like to stress, and I cannot emphasize it enough, that both groups are composed of delegates nominated by governments and that it is completely up to each government to decide whether to send the same or different delegates, to the preparatory groups and to the working groups respectively. So it is also up to each government to decide whether to send government officials or non-governmental experts to participate in the deliberations of the preparatory groups.

The days dedicated to work within the preparatory groups would remain an integral part of the

Legal Subcommittee's session. They would be open for all members of delegations, of course, including government representatives. The advantage of this approach does not lie in having deliberations conducted by non-government officials but in creating the opportunity to elaborate on specific important subjects, including the views of technical experts, academics, colleagues from the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and government officials. The preparatory groups would receive a precise mandate from the respective working group and the plenary so that they cannot get out of hand. And, of course, the plenary may also decide to reduce the number of preparatory groups to three or even two if delegations find that there are not sufficient topics to deliberate on.

So summing up, the establishment of preparatory groups would not change the character of the Legal Subcommittee as an intergovernmental body in any way.

The preparatory group format would also facilitate the inclusion of legal and especially scientific and technical expertise needed to develop legal solutions for the present practical problems, such as, for example, space debris. The following deliberations within the working groups during the second week of the session would subsequently benefit considerably. Of course, technical presentations can still be held in the preparatory groups depending on the subject of deliberation of the respective group or at another appropriate place under the new agenda.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I do not want to go too much into the details since they are all spelled out in our document Rev.2. Of course, we are open for further amendments and suggestions from interested delegations and we will continue to consult, also intersessionally, in order to reach consensus on a format for the Legal Subcommittee which is acceptable to all delegations. To this end, we will prepare a new Rev.3 of our proposal, taking on board the constructive suggestions and ideas we received in this regard during this session, to be published prior to the 2016 session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in 2018, we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first UNISPACE Conference, giving us the opportunity to consider and reflect upon the current status and future role of the United Nations COPUOS and its two Subcommittees. I am afraid that if we do not agree on a substantial reform of the Legal Subcommittee in the coming years, this body will gradually lose relevance in shaping future space law. In this perspective, our

proposal may also be understood as a first but essential contribution for our important discussion on the role and substance of the Legal Subcommittee under UNISPACE+50.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegate of Germany for introducing document L.293/Rev.2.

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak with regard to this document?

I see Brazil.

**Mr. A. J. RYPL (Brazil):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to be allowed to repeat myself and congratulate once again the German delegation for their work. This is a very complicated and daunting task and Brazil also shares the German delegation's concerns and I believe also the concerns of many other delegations, that is, we need to strive to make this Subcommittee effective and efficient.

We would like to offer perhaps a small suggestion. Many of the proposals put forward here in this document would require that we consult with specific organizations and bodies of the Brazilian Government, and I believe other delegations would probably experience the same situation. So it would be, I think, more profitable if we were able to offer comments, rather it would be more profitable if we could adopt a mechanism by which we could offer comments to the German delegation during the intersessional period in advance of the next session so that when we come to the session, we already have a document that is, let us say, formatted and addresses the concerns we have because some of the issues, for example, we feel that we do not have enough time and we do not have, let us say, the necessary resources to consult with our capitals and then provide feedback during this two-week period of intersessions. We are too busy with other issues as well. So it would be important to negotiate or develop a mechanism by which we could work in the intersessional period and then contribute with this proposal, which, we believe, is in the interest of all delegations.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Brazil.

Morocco.

**Mr. S. RIFFI TENSAMANI** (Morocco) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Chairman, first of all, let me commend Germany for the quality of this document. We would like to share our view, having perused the initial version of this document.

Over the years, Morocco has in its statements, under the agenda item, General Exchange of Views, asked that the Legal Subcommittee consider organizing its work a little differently so that all member States could derive the maximum benefit from these sessions. The organization and restructuring of the deliberations of the Legal Subcommittees requires time for reflection. The proposal made by Germany is interesting but it envisages a complete change of the current structure which could complicate our work in the short term. We think that the overall structure, as proposed, cannot really fit within two weeks, as envisaged in the document. On the other hand, setting up preparatory groups is not entirely clear. We would like to ask our German colleagues to provide more detail as to how experts are going to be designated for those groups. In our view, these preparatory groups could be created outside the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee, as happens in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, for example.

The approach proposed by Germany in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.293 highlight three important elements that need to be taken into account.

First, regrouping certain agenda items, we think, indeed, this would make it possible to reduce the overall number of items on the agenda, thus, the number of working groups will be reduce and the debate will be more fruitful.

Two, the general exchange of views, according to the document before us, should be completed within two full days, the two Mondays of the session, and a whole day should be dedicated to seminars or workshops on subjects pertaining to space technologies. Member States must jointly think about this approach. Some of the proposals made by Germany require further consideration. It can be used as a working paper to start us on the way towards an official document that will take on board all the various proposals.

Thank you.

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

Next on my list is the distinguished delegate of the Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Y. LEE** (Republic of Korea): Thank you. First of all, my highest appreciation should go to the German delegation. Since last year at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee(?) also submitted this important report and proposals by the technical level too.

Mr. Chairman, I would to point out some elements contained in the German proposal under the reform of this Subcommittee.

First of all, we have some slight difficulties in defining what is the role between the preparatory stage and the working groups(?)?

Mr. Chairman, this Subcommittee is kind of the intergovernmental organ of the United Nations. In this respect, it would be very difficult to imagine that some non-governmental representative has its own laws in their intergovernmental organizations.

And according to the German proposal, there are several tiers of the deliberations from the preparatory stage, working stage and the plenary. So I am concerned that there should be some duplication of our deliberations within our short time framework. And also what I would to point out in as far as the German proposal is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation believes the most important some reforms, our working method in this Subcommittee if to find out real genuine legal issues on which many delegations would be interested in discussing with poor(?) heartedly, wholeheartedly(?). As you know, this week, we engaged in the subject of non-binding document discussions in which there are many interesting discussions activated. Since the adoption of the last conventions, we are under the long-term \_\_\_\_\_(?) real genuine legal issues. This was the most important point to be deliberated among ourselves, how to activate our deliberations for the development of space law.

Thank you.

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

Next on my list is the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands.

**Mr. H. VAN DEN OOSTERKAMP**

(Netherlands): Thank you Chairman. First of all, we would like to thank the German delegation for its proposal and we think it is a good step forward for reform of the Legal Subcommittee. We can support what has been said by Brazil and also by Morocco for the possibility of comments during the intersessional period. I think that would be good to make progress.

The delegation of the Netherlands sees the following advantages of the German proposal. First of all, what has been said that the degrees of the number of points of agenda. What is also good is the different classification of the agenda. It will say the first thing, the preparatory groups, and the second thing, the discussion of the agenda, the deliberations of the working groups and the plenaries.

As a sum, we believe that the German proposal is a good step forward. It allows a more thorough and adept use of meetings time without limiting the session period.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands.

Next on my list is the distinguished delegate of the United States.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my delegation has made its views known concerning document L.292/Rev.2. It was introduced by the delegation of Germany. As we noted in our earlier discussions, we believe that there are some elements of this proposal that we should consider seriously to implement their other elements that we obviously has some disagreement over. But what I want to do is make a broader point and that is that the document L.292/Rev.2 is one in a series of many innovative reforms that have been introduced in this Committee and, as the Director for Conference Services noted today, that the reforms that we had introduced in 1997 and then decided on today, are rather unprecedented within the United Nations system. So I would call to delegations' attention the fact that despite what you might think, in fact, the Committee has been very flexible, particularly over the past close to 20 years, in terms of how we conduct our work and in what forums and we point to the Long-Term Sustainability and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the fact that we are able to organize expert groups that we are able to work intersessionally, it is rather unprecedented in our view.

You also have to look at some of the other things the Committee has done in relationship to organizing UNISPACE III. There was a specific report done for the General Assembly pointing out the innovative measures that we took in order to organize UNISPACE III so it was kept within the Regular Budget of the United Nations, and we had a conference that had close to 2,500 participants.

So I guess the point I want to make is to congratulate Germany in sustaining this tradition of innovation in the Committee, to also remind delegates that, despite what we might think, this is not a static United Nations body, in fact, it is quite dynamic, and we are only encouraged by the discussions that we have had on how to improve our work here in the Legal Subcommittee, in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as well as in the full Committee.

Thank you.

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

Last on my list so far is the distinguished delegate of Mexico.

**Ms. R. M. RAMÍREZ DE ARELLANO Y HARO** (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mexico know what changes. As you know, the current Government of Mexico is carrying out many changes in the area of telecommunications, for example, radio broadcasting, energy generation and distribution and all of this change has led to various actions. Some people were for it and some people were against. So I would agree with the Netherlands and Brazil. These questions need to be given consideration during the intersessional period. The proposal is a good proposal and we would like to express thanks to Germany for drawing it up but change is a challenge and this change in particular is a challenge, modifying the way that we work. It really is truly a challenge.

During the last session, we submitted a request. We requested the Secretariat to assess the functioning of this Subcommittee since the very beginning. We need to know what matters have been dealt with, what instruments have been adopted, how long did it take to adopt the instruments, how long did it take us to discuss the various instruments. Of course, this is additional work for the Secretariat and I apologize for that but I think it is very important for us to have an evaluation, have a snapshot of the state of affairs. We need to know what the Subcommittee has

done because there are items on the Subcommittee's agenda that recur time and time again since 1968. If we are to put an end to this inertia, if we are to avoid us repeating declarations over and over again, these declarations can be quite valuable, I make declarations myself and statements, but I think that we need to be able to carry out other activities. Everybody is entitled to make whatever statements they wish but this method of work that we have means that sometimes we go over our speaking time, for example. I am not talking about other delegations, I am talking about Mexico. You make a statement and then you make another statement, then you have 10-minutes speaking time for item 3 of the agenda, for example, and people go over that. I am talking about myself, instead of talking to a speaking time of 10 minutes, I have spoken for 15 minutes. So I am not pointing the finger at other delegations. We, ourselves, abuse the speaking time.

I would also like to say that there are many activities carried out here that are also carried out in other United Nations bodies. I am not going to give you a list of that duplication of effort but I think that it would be useful for us to know what it is that we do not do because there are activities that are carried out within other United Nations bodies.

Then there is the matter of documents. I think that really we need to take on board the fact that we are a Legal Subcommittee, a Legal Subcommittee that is supposed to have as its output legal instruments, not necessarily binding legal instruments, but basically our output should be legal instruments.

I also requested that under the COPUOS plenary we should discuss the working methods. This is indicated in the report of the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee. This is L.990 and there is a specific paragraph on that. In that particular paragraph, I state very clearly that we need to ensure that we have very clear working methods. This is essential. We need to talk about that. I am not here to say that we need to circumscribe our debate and discussions. Everybody is entitled to take the floor but sometimes our discussions become very Byzantine and they lead to no consensus or agreement so it is a waste of time. We do this for weeks and weeks on end, and while we do that, you have other bodies that, in the space of two or three days, they carry out real work, they handle issues that we do not handle here or that we fail to handle here.

I also requested that we should ask member States to give their opinions of this issue of reform and to say what they think of the German proposal. What do member States think about the working methods of

the Legal Subcommittee? Because we have adopted a non-binding instrument, the Moon Treaty. What has the Legal Subcommittee done since then? Have we put in place rules and procedures for that? We have not but we need to do that. We need a system. We need order. It is very important for us as lawyers to respect that order, systems, the decisions of the majority, of course, but I think that really what is needed is that we should take decisions. We need to be more decisive. Here, decisions are made on a consensual basis or a majority basis and we need to discuss this. It is extremely important. You have delegations that have said we have always worked on the basis of consensus but I have a question I would like to put to the Secretariat. Is that actually true? Have we always respected consensus within this Legal Subcommittee? I think that sometimes it has not been true. There has not always been consensus. If we believe that it is possible for decisions to be made by majority vote, will then, in that case, perhaps we could consider the possibility of making decisions by a majority vote.

I would like to conclude, therefore, by expressing thanks to Germany and I would like to say that we need to continue with our consultations. And I would also to say that my delegation, the delegation of Mexico, people from the Mexican Space, so my entire delegation based here in Vienna, we do not have any experts in the area of legal matters. We do not have any experts on scientific and technical matters so it is within the Subcommittee we do need experts to be presented, especially when decisions are being made. We need for those decisions to be able to be made and to be made rapidly.

Thank you.

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

I have now received further requests for the floor and the first is the distinguished delegate of Algeria.

**Mr. A. OUSSEDIK** (Algeria) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to join those who spoke before me in thanking Germany for its efforts to try and restructure the agenda and the work of the Subcommittee.

In this regard, I would like to briefly recall the position of my delegation.

We agree with the first part which was about restructuring the agenda and we have said that with a

few modifications, it is a solution that can meet with consensus.

Having said that, we have great reservations and we would like to convey that to the German delegation regarding the second part, particularly in terms of setting up working groups or preparatory groups. I think the delegation of Germany should put a little more emphasis on what brings us together, what can actually lead to a consensus. That is the first part, restructuring the agenda and put to one side for now the second part.

Thank you very much.

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

Next on my list is the distinguished delegate of France.

**Mr. T. FOURNIER** (France) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. With respect to the organization of the work of this Subcommittee, as has been said on a number of occasions during previous sessions, the French delegation would like for the organization of the work within this Committee to be reformed. The aim should be to improve the effectiveness of the organization of work and to make better use of the time allocated for the sessions of the Subcommittee.

France, therefore, welcomes the efforts that have been made by Germany to achieve rationalization, streamlining of our work. We will give consideration to the revised document. We hope that the intersessional period can be used to achieve deep consideration of items on which there is agreement among us so as to move forward with this particular project.

Thank you.

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

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak on that document?

Yes, South Africa.

**Mr. G. J. SMITH** (South Africa): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to join the other delegations in thanking the German delegation for their efforts and we recognize the revisions from the previous draft. We are satisfied, as the South African

delegation, the Committee will continue to meet for the full two-week period as we recognize for African countries and developing countries, this two-week period is beneficial for us to gain access to the intellectual and human capacity which is here at the United Nations and in the Legal Subcommittee which many African delegations will all have access to in other circumstances.

South Africa is in favour of great efficiency of any United Nations bodies and we would like to inform the Committee and the German delegation that their proposal has been sent to the relevant authorities in Pretoria and we will continue to work with the German delegation and any intersessional body which creates in this regard to make this proposal forward.

Thank you Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much distinguished delegate of South Africa.

I see no other delegation.

I see Chile.

**Ms. T. ALVAREZ** (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to add my voice to those who spoke before me in thanking Germany for its efforts over the past year and for submitting this proposal on restructuring the work of the Legal Subcommittee.

As we pointed out earlier, I think we all agree that this Subcommittee lacks dynamism. It requires a new impulse and restructuring our work to make it more effective and more efficient is a definite need.

As pointed out by Brazil and the Netherlands, we, too, feel that it is appropriate to use intersessional periods in working on these documents with Germany to get to a consensus-based proposal and as to how to restructure this Subcommittee. Maybe we should bear in mind the fact that in 2018, we will have the fiftieth anniversary of UNISPACE and by that time, we should be ready to revitalize the Subcommittee. It definitely needs it.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you distinguished delegate of Chile.

I see no other delegation wishing to speak.

Maybe the German delegation would like to react on these proposals or interventions, in particular in view of how Germany would like to proceed for next year.

**Mr. C.-H. MOELLER** (Germany): Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank all delegations for their helpful and valuable questions and remarks. We will certainly try to take them all on board. As I said, we are preparing a Rev.3 for next year's session and we will try to include your suggestions in this Rev.3.

I will, in particular, thank the distinguished delegate from Brazil for his proposal to establish some kind of mechanism and to interessionally comment and work on our proposal. I do not have at the moment a proposal how we can structure these kind of deliberations but we will think about it. We think it is an excellent idea. I think it would be a way not just to consult with some delegations but really to include all delegations who are interested in trying to move forward and to find a consensus on this topic and as soon as we have found a way how to structure and establish such a kind of mechanism in a proper way, we will inform delegations accordingly.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Germany.

I would now like to turn to the two concrete proposals we have before us on single issue items for discussion. As you are aware, we have already received introductions to these two proposals and these two proposals are the proposal by Germany on a new single issue item for discussion on Space Traffic Management, as contained in CRP.13, and the revised proposal for a single issue item for discussion, Exchange of Views on the Application of International Law on Small Satellite Activities, which was previously submitted by Brazil and is now submitted by GRULAC.

Let us turn first, since we apply the chronological order, to the proposal for a single issue item for discussion at the fifty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2016 on "Exchange of Views on the Concept of Space Traffic Management", and I give the floor to Germany for another brief introduction to that proposal, CRP.13.

**Mr. C.-H. MOELLER** (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the German delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude and

appreciation especially to those delegations which explicitly voiced their support last week for our proposal for including a single issue item on "Exchange of Views on the Concept of Space Traffic Management" on the Subcommittees agenda for 2016.

We especially would like to thank Luxembourg, Austria and the Netherlands for co-sponsoring our proposal. We believe that this is the right time for beginning a discussion and an exchange of views on space traffic management also under legal aspects and to reflect its potential relevance for the work of the Legal Subcommittee.

With regard to the question put forward by Chile last Friday, I would like to emphasize once again that the German proposal is a proposal for a single issue item only.

Of course, if next year's deliberations show that there is still demand and interest by delegations for further discussions, the Committee may decide next year, by consensus, of course, to further extend its deliberations but that would be a decision for next year's session.

This year, we suggest the inclusion of a single issue item 2016, as published in Conference Room Paper, CRP.13.

Distinguished delegates, we hope that our proposal meets your support.

Thank you very much.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Germany.

Would delegations like to react on this proposal?

I see the Czech Republic.

**Ms. M. SMUCLEROVA** (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Czech Republic would like to express its support for the German proposal to introduce a new single issue item on space traffic management which will allow us to shed new perspectives on the legal framework of the governance of space activities, in particular the safety of space operations. An exchange of views about the concept of space traffic management and the 2016 session of the Legal Subcommittee is very welcome.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Czech Republic.

Other delegations wishing to speak?

I see Chile.

**Ms. T. ALVAREZ** (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I wanted to thank Germany for introducing this new agenda item which will be considered for the next session of the Legal Subcommittee. We think it is necessary that this Subcommittee be in a position to discuss space traffic and related legal issues so we support Germany's proposal in that respect.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Chile.

Next on my list is Brazil.

**Mr. A. J. RYPL** (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. A very brief contribution. I would like to thank the German delegation for the proposal and associate myself with the delegations that spoke before us in supporting it.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Brazil.

The Russian Federation.

**Mr. V. M. GUDNOV** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We, too, would like to thank Germany and also note, as others noted before us, that this is closely linked to the issue of the safety of space operations and draw the attention of the Subcommittee to the fact that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is engaged in developing appropriate guidelines for ensuring the safety of space operations.

In our opinion, a general exchange of views at our next session would be very interesting and I think we should draw the attention of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to this.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Russian Federation.

Next on my list is the Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Y. LEE** (Republic of Korea): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My delegation also is pleased with the not(?) proposing the inclusion of this item of the agenda into our next work list. Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to give my observations on the item, CRP.13.

First of all, this item is somehow so wide and I would like to request that the scope should be narrowed down and very specific suitable in order for us to discuss on part of the occasions.

And, as already mentioned by the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation, the concept of space traffic management, first of all, belongs to the scientific and technical matters whereby this issue preliminary or at least in the peripherals(?) to be discussed in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for our furthering of work.

If you would permit me, I would like to suggest a small revision, modification of the title of this item of the agenda. The current suggested by Germany, the title is "Exchange of Views on the Concept of Space Traffic Management". However, we have no mandate to discuss about the concept of space traffic management. Instead of the language, the "concept", I would like to suggest "legal aspects". So the full title will be like this, "Exchange of Views on the Legal Aspects of Space Traffic Management". Then we will take our work to further the discussion.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Republic of Korea.

Next on my list is Mexico.

**Ms. R. M. RAMÍREZ DE ARELLANO Y HARO** (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We associate ourselves with those who expressed a favourable view with regard to this agenda item. We are thankful to the distinguished delegate of Germany for proposing it for the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. We agree with the Czech Republic, Chile, Brazil and all the delegations that have supported this proposal.

I just wanted to make our own proposal and I do not if it is the right time to do it. When we talk about safety in space here, in this particular forum, we refer to outer space. So in reality, we are talking about risks involved also in aerospace missions, sub-orbital missions, which is not regulated by the Outer Space Treaty. So I do not know if this is the right time but I

do think that we should invite an expert maybe from ICAO and hear other views in our next meeting as to what progress their Expert Group has made on these issues, where we are, what is the status of this type of research? I think it was the Russian delegate, I am sorry if I am mistaken, who brought this up earlier and I think it is really something we should look at. This is considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. When we are talking about safety, we are talking about technical aspects of safety but we cannot do that about outer space without also talking about safety in air space and the aerospace missions. So when we address that from the legal point of view, I think it should be the same dual approach.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mexico.

Next on my list is the United States.

**Mr. B. ISRAEL** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman and I would like to join others in thanking Germany for proposing this item and for the consultations it has carried out informally during the session of the Legal Subcommittee.

I also hear and understand the interventions along the lines that for one the concept of space traffic management is not something that is acceptable to universal agreement about what the balance of that are and also that, as a concept, some definitions of it might include things that would not be the sort of traditional purview of this Subcommittee. And I can tell you that my delegation supports the item as proposed and we resolve any concerns about those issues as follows, namely in view of this being an issue that we have not really discussed here as such before and one where there is not a lot of certainty about, what the balance are and even what there is to say, I think a single issue item is an appropriate way to proceed and delegations can, of course, in deciding what they will say or not say in this exchange of views, are free to use their own judgement about what space traffic management means for them and also what is appropriate and not appropriate, in their view, to bring to the Legal Subcommittee for discussion.

So that is the approach that we would take if this item is adopted and I have confidence that others could do so as well.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you United States.

Any other delegations wishing to speak?

So I could summarize that I did not hear any objections to have a new single issue item for discussion at the Legal Subcommittee 2016 on the topic of "Space Traffic Management".

There has been the proposal by the Republic of Korea to change the title from "Exchange of Views on the Concept of Space Traffic Management" to "Exchange of Views on the Legal Aspects of Space Traffic Management".

I understand that at least one delegation would not like to have that change. May I ask other delegations what their view is on keeping or changing the title of this proposed agenda item? I would also address Germany as the country proposing it but maybe first others.

I do not see any intervention so Germany what would you say?

**Mr. C.-H. MOELLER** (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank all delegations who have taken the floor for their support concerning our proposal. We do not any objections concerning the proposal from Korea.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We heard the proposal. Can we then continue with the change, as proposed by the Republic of Korea, "Exchange of Views on the Legal Aspects of Space Traffic Management"?

Is that acceptable? I only see indications if that is not acceptable.

I see no objections.

So we have decided to have a new single issue item for discussing at the fifty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2016 on "Exchange of Views on the Legal Aspects of Space Traffic Management".

Thank you very much.

*It is so decided.*

We now turn to the second proposal, as indicated, and this is the proposal for a single issue item for discussion called "Exchange of Views on the Application of International Law on Small Satellite Activities", which is contained in CRP.23/Rev.1. It is

a submission by GRULAC and I understand that it will be introduced by the distinguished delegate of Brazil.

**Mr. A. J. RYPL** (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As we had the opportunity to discuss last week when presenting the proposal, the idea here is to be able to provide a single issue item whereby countries will be able to express their views and concerns and ideas and suggestions on small satellite activities. As we had the privilege to illustrate, this is an item of great interest. It has great potential in helping especially developing countries but not only those, of course, helping developing countries boost and foster space education programmes. So we circulated this proposal in order to address that.

I just draw the delegations' attention to the fact that the document we are looking at is a Rev.1 document, not the one on the website. This document has, as far as I understand, has been distributed in the pigeonholes and there have been a couple of minor changes. I would just like to mention that there is an amendment. It should be the "Application of International Law to Small Satellite Activities".

And there are a couple of changes then on paragraph 5 in relation to the document that was circulated last week and that is the final sentence in paragraph 5 which now reads "this discussion will illuminate whether member States wish to undertake further work on this topic." So as this is a single issue item, when we come to this discussion, we will decide what the next step should be, should there be any, of course.

And we have added a sixth paragraph which addresses the work of the ITU, the contribution of the ITU, and in that paragraph, which I will read aloud, it says "In addition, in light of the aforementioned United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs/ITU Initiatives regarding small satellites, as well as resolution 757 of the ITU, which addresses regulatory aspects for nano-satellites and pica-satellites, the observer of the ITU should be invited to update the Legal Subcommittee on any relevant developments, any issues regarding ITU procedures and regulations applicable to small satellites."

Basically, this will be our proposal and we will welcome any comments of other delegations regarding it.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegate of Brazil for introducing CRP.23/Rev.1 and I now invite delegations to comment on this proposal.

First on my list is the distinguished representative of Algeria.

**Mr. A. OUSSEDIK** (Algeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just small remarks regarding the title. It gives me the impression that there is an international law on small satellite activities. It is the case?

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Algeria.

The United States.

**Mr. B. ISRAEL** (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was just struck that it was an interesting point by the distinguished delegate of Algeria and I think it might better, if the title might be better phrased, if I might suggest it to the distinguished delegate of Brazil and also the GRULAC co-sponsors, "on the Application of International Law to Small Satellite Activities" as my understanding of the theme behind it is that we are talking about the application of the international legal framework we have for space activities to relatively recent activities.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you United States.

Other comments?

Mexico.

**Ms. R. M. RAMÍREZ DE ARELLANO Y HARO** (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. To follow up on what was said regarding small satellite activities, we endorse Brazil's proposal. It is not at the moment addressed by the regulatory framework that exists in an adequate way. If you will allow, Mr. Chairman, let me say that the International Telecommunications Conference of 2012 asked for the resolution addressing small satellites to be revised. In the eyes of international law, there is no clear distinction at the moment between these various types of satellites and we are talking about that part of international law that and should be applied to small satellites or micro-satellites, taking on board, of course, the position of the International Telecommunication Union, the Radio Communications Regulatory Framework of the ITU and particularly its Directive XI.

To date, according to the Regulatory Framework put in place by the ITU, micro-, nano-, pica-satellites, all small satellites that exist, or may exist in future, are subject to the Notification Procedure envisaged in that Regulatory Framework whereas there is a clear distinction between large and medium satellites and micro-satellites in that regard which calls for a revision of the appropriate ITU resolutions. They are being revised and this is something that the World Telecommunications Conference, to be held in Geneva, in November of this year, if memory serves, that will be addressed there.

So a study has been conducted and experts were asked to see if Articles IX and XI of the ITU Regulations be considered non-applicable to micro-satellites, nano- and pica-satellites.

This is a very important issue. It goes directly to what we are dealing with here. Therefore, Brazil's proposal, GRULAC's proposal, is very appropriate and we support it.

As pointed out by Brazil, at the next meeting of the Legal Subcommittee, we might ask for additional information to be provided on this issue to members of the Subcommittee, particularly with regard to the decisions that the ITU will have taken in the meantime with regard to micro-, nano- and pica-satellites and which part of international law, as it currently exists, applies to them.

So, again, we think it is very appropriate that we should invite a representative of the ITU to come to our next session and provide comprehensive and detailed information in that regard.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mexico.

Next on my list is Austria.

**Ms. U. KÖHLER** (Austria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Austria supports the GRULAC proposal because we think this is a very pertinent topic to be discussed and we also welcome the invitation to the ITU in paragraph 6 which gives them the opportunity to report on their work on the subject.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Austria.

Spain.

**Mr. R. MORO AGUILAR** (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to thank Brazil and GRULAC for proposing this new agenda item. It is, indeed, an issue of great interest for us, both from the perspective of education, research and promoting sustainable development and we would welcome a presentation on the regulatory aspects that apply to the small satellites. We hope that such a presentation would serve to provide a new impulse to the discussion that will take place, we hope, in the next session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Thank you Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Spain.

The Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Y. LEE** (Republic of Korea): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the same vein, already commented by numerous delegations on the proposal of this item of the agenda, my delegation also is in favour of inclusion as a single item of the agenda for our work.

Mr. Chairman, according to the Principles of Outer Space law, there is no(?) such delimitation on the size and the actors. First, the period of the outer space activities, the activities belong to several States for freedom to navigate the outer space but, however, these aspects \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*), the people's freedoms and the contribution for the democratization of outer space by some wider or public access to outer space activities.

In this regard, my delegation believes that this item of the agenda will contribute for the development of our deliberations on how to handle such a trend of the widening and the differing of the people's participation, in particular registration of small micro-satellites and space objects on how to establish jurisdiction and control through the registration and in terms of the frequency distribution and debris reduction.

And finally, we should go to how to manage the liability or \_\_\_\_\_ (*not clear*) arising from such activities. Such numerous legal issues are waiting for us to be discussed so in this I am very happy to see this agenda item to be talked out at the next session.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Republic of Korea.

Germany.

**Mr. C.-H. MOELLER(?)** (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The German delegation would like to express its appreciation to Brazil and GRULAC for this proposal. We think it is a very interesting, a very valuable proposal concerning a topic of ever-growing importance and, therefore, it has our full support.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Germany.

The Czech Republic.

**Ms. M. SMUCLEROVA** (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Czech Republic supports the introduction of the new single issue item on the exchange of views on the application of international law on or to small satellite activities, as proposed by Brazil and GRULAC. In view of the rising interest in utilization the potential benefit offered by small satellites, and in order to ensure these devices fulfil their role in supporting the development of space programmes, in compliance with international legal norms, we believe an exchange of views about the developing national practice and rules within an international forum will be beneficial.

I would also like to take the opportunity to commend the joint document prepared by ITU and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs on the "Registration, Authorization, Debris Mitigation and Frequency Management of Small and Very Small Satellites", as an important guideline for small satellite developers and operators on this issue and one of the first supportive documents.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Czech Republic.

Algeria.

**Mr. A. OUSSEDIK** (Algeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As previous speakers, I would like to thank Brazil for their proposal, the GRULAC proposal, and we express to them our full support.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Algeria.

Any other delegations wishing to speak?

I see none.

So I give the floor to Brazil to react to the comments by delegations.

**Mr. A. J. RYPL** (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We receive with immense satisfaction all the support of delegations and their comments and we hope that this item will allow us to recognize whatever gaps there might be in the legal aspects and, let us say, the legal framework addressing small satellite activities. And, again, just a brief reminder, in paragraph 4 of this GRULAC proposal, we introduce a number of items that can be addressed by member States and organizations but this is by no means an exhaustive list. Delegations should feel free to address whatever aspects they feel are important and we look forward to receiving these comments and seeing these comments next week.

And I would like to enquire whether we could perhaps convey Spain's suggestion on a small presentation on small satellites to the IISL, ECSL. I wonder if it would be possible to consult with them. I do not know if the Secretariat would do that, to ask whether they would like to have a seminar on small satellites and space law. Is that possible?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Brazil.

We already had that Symposium last year.

**Mr. A. J. RYPL** (Brazil): I am sorry. What I mean, dealing specifically with that part of the legal aspects. I understand that this is what Spain would be proposing, not on small satellites and their activity but the aspects that are pertaining to space law.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Brazil.

I understood that the ITU observer should be invited to give a presentation under this agenda item. Is that correct?

I think that was the understanding, to provide additional information on activities undertaken by the ITU as an integral part of this agenda item.

Spain.

**Mr. R. MORO AGUILAR** (Spain): That was not our proposal. What we said before just that we invited everybody afterwards to listen to our

presentation on regulatory aspects of small satellites, nothing related with ITU here, after this session.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** OK good. Thank you for the clarification but nevertheless you, yourself, pointed out that ITU should be a particular element of your consideration under this agenda item and, quite obviously, ITU will be invited, or is in any case, invited to take the floor under this agenda item since they are a permanent observer and have, together with the Office, been preparing the guidance on small satellites so this will certainly be taken into consideration.

Now, let me ask whether there is a general agreement to have such a new agenda item, a single issue item for discussion at the fifty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2016 which would read "Exchange of Views on the Application of International Law to Small Satellite Activities".

Are there any objections?

I see none.

*It is decided.*

And with that we will have two new more single issue items for discussion at our next session.

Distinguished delegates, we will, after this, continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Items to be Considered by the Subcommittee, tomorrow morning.

### **Technical presentations**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed with the technical presentation scheduled for this afternoon.

The first presentation we will hear is by Mr. Fernando Aguado and Mr. Rafael Moro of Spain and it is entitled "Regulatory Aspects of Small Satellite Remote Operations in Radio Amateur Bands".

The second presentation is by Mr. Kazushi Kobata of Japan and it is entitled "Japan's Capacity-Building in Space Law: Recent Progress".

First, I would like to invite the speakers from Spain.

You have the floor.

**Mr. F. AGUADO AGELET (Spain):** Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. On behalf of the Spanish delegation, it is a pleasure to make a contribution under this agenda item. Because of the technical nature of the presentation, it is highly technical, we will continue in English.

*(Continued in English)* Our presentation deals with regulatory aspects of small satellites and in particular with remote operation matters in radio amateur bands. As already mentioned by many delegations at this Subcommittee, small satellite missions are opening a door for developing countries as well as non-faring nations to access to space since these kinds of missions are cost-effective and require certain skills for development. Even though the operation phase is extremely important in every space mission, less attention has been paid to this phase, both from the technical and from the regulatory point of view in the case of small satellite missions.

In this way, we are going to present some aspects about regulatory aspects of the operation phase as well as the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and ITU compatible implementation for small satellite missions using radio amateur satellite bands.

The contents are the following. We are going to talk a little bit about capacity-building through small satellites. Then we are going to present Spanish CUBESAT missions as well as the HUMSAT mission, an international mission under the Basic Space Technology Initiative of the United Nations. Then, small satellite regulatory framework; small satellite remote operation, general regulatory aspects; and, an example of remote operation by international network software called SATNET. At the end, we are going to sum up with some conclusions.

In terms of capacity-building, the CUBESAT Standard was proposed by Professor Bob Twiggs and Professor Jordi Puig-Suari from Stanford and CALPOLY Universities in 199. These kind of missions have provided extremely valuable hands-on experience to student and Professor(?) between a low-cost framework in a reduced timescale. Current missions based on small satellites are surpassing the initial expectation and small satellites are currently attractive not only for education institutions but also for governmental and commercial application as well as science missions.

As an example, the joint Asteroid Impact Mission, AIM, which will launch two CUBESATS from their mother satellite to complement *in situ* measurements before a capsule impacts on a moonlet(?) or didimus(?), a binary asteroid in Ottawa(?) 2022.

AIM is a joint project of ESA, the German Aerospace Centre, the Observatory de la Cote de Sur, NASA and Johns Hopkin University Applied Physics Laboratory.

Finally, the number of small satellite launches has surpassed the most optimistic predictions and, therefore, the space community is observing with the utmost interest and attention these initiatives.

Regarding the Spanish CUBESAT missions, in 2008, XATCOBEO was selected by the Education Office of the European Space Agency as one of the nine CUBESATs to have a free launch in the medium flight of the ESA VEGA rocket. The XATCOBEO's proposal was focused on the methodology as well as on the scientific purpose. When presenting the proposal, \_\_\_\_\_(?) the XATCOBEO's strong educational mission goal, how to will a CUBESAT under the HAYAN(?) ESA Space Standard, ECSS.

XATCOBEO was launched by ESA in 2012 and re-entered just almost two and a half years later completing an extremely successful mission.

Additionally, Vigo University has coordinated GENSO, Global Education Network for Satellite Operation. That is an ESA project and also we have led the software development.

In 2008, the HUMSAT project was approved by all the participants at the first Basic Space Technological Initiative Symposium on Small Satellite Missions and is currently part of the Basic Space Technological Initiative Programme at the United Nations.

The purpose of the HUMSAT project is the development of a nano-satellite constellation and is corresponding round segments to provide support for humanitarian initiatives, especially in developing areas. Furthermore, the HUMSAT project has strong educational objectives, boosting cooperation among universities from different countries. The HUMSAT project is aiming to provide a wide range of applications such as climate change monitoring remote disaster tracking and public health communications.

HUMSAT-D is the first HUMSAT satellite and was launched in November 2013. It receives, stores and re-transmits information collected from worldwide *in situ* sensors including a redundant and parallel reception up to four simultaneous sensors. Successfully launched by DNER in 2013, this mission has completely achieved the mission objectives.

OPTOS, it is another Spanish CUBESAT, developed by INTA, and is a technological demonstrator, also launched in November 2013.

The SERPENS Programme. It is a Brazilian Space Initiative promoting capacity-building as well as international cooperation. The SERPENS satellite is a 3-U CUBESAT which two main mission objectives: to test in orbit local platform, an altitude determination sub-system; and to provide a HUMSAT payload providing communication caparelators(?).

The launch is expected in August 2015 from the International Space Station which absolutely guarantees to be compliant with the United Nations COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

For a 3-Unit CUBESAT, the re-entry is expected to be approximately in five or six months from the launch date.

SATNET, Satellite Network International Project, led by CALPOLY, California Polytechnic University, in the United States, in cooperation with Vigo University, providing remote operation capabilities to low-Earth orbit missions. SATNET implements the possibility to refine inter-connected Federal-run station networks and distributed cloud computing capabilities. Even though it is not limited to a specific frequency band, it is expected to be used by the small satellite community operating radio amateur missions.

Beyond the technical capabilities of SATNET, the most important issue to tackle is how to define a SATNET-used compatible with the current legal and regulatory frameworks, especially those from the United Nations and the ITU.

**Mr. R. MORO AGUILAR** (Spain): It is our view that CUBESAT and other small satellites are space objects under the United Nations outer space treaties. According to Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, States Parties are responsible for all national activities in outer space and that includes small satellites.

According to Article VII of the Outer Space Treaty, as well as the 1972 Liability Convention, launching States are liable for any damages caused by the small satellite while in orbit. No damages are expected to be caused on Earth as small satellites usually burn up in the atmosphere during re-entry.

According to Article VIII of the Outer Space Treaty, as well as the 1974 Registration Convention, the launching State must register any object launched into Earth orbit or beyond and the State of registry will retain jurisdiction and control over the space object.

States should implement all these international obligations at the domestic level by assuming responsibility over small satellites procured by their non-governmental or private entities, and by accepting the role of launching State; by imposing an obligation to obtain a licence to launch and operate non-governmental small satellites; by registering non-governmental small satellites, both at national and international level; and by establishing an adequate supervision of this kind of space activity.

Also, according to Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty, there is the duty not to interfere with the space activities of other States and that should include to minimize the creation of space debris and small satellites should abide by the 25-year rule and avoid harmful interference with other radio communications or radiocommunications of other space objects of other countries.

That brings us to the ITU Regulations. Small satellites must comply with the ITU Radio Regulations and the same as all other satellites. They must follow the Radio Regulations, both for the frequencies and for the associated orbits. They must follow the ITU Coordination Procedure whenever necessary and we must take into consideration the coordination of small satellites constellations with pre-existing satellite networks is particular challenging in this regard.

According to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Basic Space Technology Initiative, the goal is to provide advice on regulatory and technical aspects, such as frequency registration, inclusion on the United Nations Register, with regard to small satellites.

Also, according to ITU Resolution 757, adopted at the WRC-12, at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2012, there are no specific small satellites characteristics that are relevant from a frequency management perspective. As a consequence, the ITU Radio Regulations, and in

particular Articles IX and XI, remain untouched and in force for small satellite missions.

Also, according to the ITU 2015 Symposium that took place in Prague recently, the Prague Declaration was approved, urging the small satellite community to adhere to international regulations and to continue with capacity-building workshops on regulatory and legal aspects.

There are many non-geostationary small satellites operating in frequency bands not falling under the ITU Article IX, the ITU Coordination Procedure. In particular, university CUBESATS typically operate in radio amateur satellite bands. These bands are only suitable for non-commercial applications, the most common frequency bands are listed in this line, and for non-radio amateur small satellites, other frequencies are available and they will follow the same ITU regulations and procedures than for all other non-geostationary satellites.

According to the Regulations, any satellite operator shall set up an Earth station to ensure that they will be capable of switching off the transmissions from the satellite. An Earth station has to be operated by an operator with a valid amateur licence and call sign. Remote Earth stations have to be located inside notified service areas of the satellite, the service area "XVE-Visible Earth" for a worldwide service area, and there is no extra fee to include and update any additional service areas.

**Mr. F. AGUADO AGELET (Spain):** For low-Earth orbits typical passes last between eight and 12 minutes and we can expect to have between five or six passes per day in any location. Therefore, for a single low-Earth orbit satellite mission, the ground station is only used 10 per cent of the time. As a consequence, ground station networks will allow extending notably the access time to and from a small satellite, as well as selecting the best moment to proceed with the satellite operation based on the house status of the satellite known by millions of the housekeeping telemetry. Therefore, this kind of remote operation may increase the downloaded mission data but it is necessary to evaluate properly the power generation and the impacts on the power budgets.

Small satellite missions using radio amateur bands will introduce a ground station network should consider the following aspects in order to become compliant with the United Nations and the ITU Regulations. For downlink remote satellite operation, in our opinion, from the current ITU and also Regulation perspective, it is possible to receive passive

downlink telemetry for a remote Earth station and then re-transmit these data to the remote control centre by Internet. Please note that some national legislation do not allow to interconnect radio amateur Earth station to the Internet.

In addition to that, it is not needed to have a local operator in the remote Earth station for a passive downlink reception. On the other hand, using a remote Earth station to telecommand a small satellite, is currently technically possible as, for example, using the SATNET Network but it is necessary to pay attention to the following points in order to be compatible with the current ITU Framework.

The remote ground station must be located in a notified service area. An operator with a radio amateur licence must be present in the remote Earth station supervising the transmission as well as controlling the radio receiver. Therefore, we should advise about potential problems for an automatic remote operation without the presence of an operator in the remote Earth station from the liability point of view.

Finally, it is very important and recommendable to submit to ITU a special notification for this special Earth station under ITU Resolution 642.

SERPENS is an example of remote operation and also it is an example of international cooperation carried out under the United Nations Basic Space Technological Initiative HUMSAT Programme between Brazil and Spain. The first SERPENS satellite is a 3-U CUBESAT developed under this United Nations Programme. The launch is expected in August 2015 from the International Space Station from the Japanese module.

The Advanced Publication Information, API, including Brazil and Spain as service areas, was submitted today to you by the Brazilian Government and the final notification under Article XI and the special notification under Resolution 642, are going to be submitted to the ITU in the following days. Therefore, the aforementioned procedure will enable to operate remotely the SERPENS satellite either in Brazil or in Spain following the current ITU and United Nations Regulatory and Legal Frameworks.

As conclusions, CUBESATs provide a hands-on experience in real satellite missions in recent years, there has been an increasing number of small satellite missions. Small satellites must comply with international space law. University small satellites frequently use radio amateur bands and the Earth

station can be notably increase the mission return. And the United Nations and ITU Regulations Framework is necessary to define properly the service areas as well as is possible to downlink automatic remote operation and it is absolutely necessary to have a supervised remote operation for uplink communication and it is extremely important to notify to the ITU under Resolution 642 this special Earth station.

In order to conclude our presentation, we would like to show a short video about the HUMSAT Project and the capabilities of these kind of missions, small satellite missions, in the near future.

*Video*

*(Video inaudible)*

Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is the final part of our presentation.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mr. Aguado and Mr. Moro from the Spanish delegation for this very informative presentation. Indeed, your presentation had been originally scheduled for yesterday and I wanted to apologize that it has been moved to today but now it turns out that it has come particularly timely so obviously there was some higher meaning to schedule it for today.

Now, are there any questions you would like to ask to the presenters?

I see none but you will certainly have the opportunity to speak to the presenters after the session.

Let me now turn to the second presentation we have for this afternoon and this is the presentation by Mr. Kazushi Kobata of Japan and it is entitled "Japan's Capacity-Building in Space Law: Recent Progress". You have the floor.

**Mr. K. KOBATA (Japan):** Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, representatives. Following my presentation on Monday, it is my great pleasure and honour to make another technical presentation today on the theme on Japan's capacity-building in space law, which is also considered a high priority in our Agency and the universities.

Today, first I will introduce the Basic Framework of Capacity-Building in Space Law in Japan, followed by the major activities by leading

universities and finally I will show you JAXA's contributions.

This is the Basic Framework of Capacity-Building in Space Law and Policy through cooperation between two leading universities and JAXA.

Our education parts are mainly undertaken by universities and JAXA is supporting research, outreach, basic database and network activities. Especially, JAXA has been aiming to encourage universities to establish cooperative networks with Japanese and foreign universities and the institutions which would greatly enforce space law and policy study in Japan, and we are also encouraging other Japanese universities to follow them.

In Japan, Keio University plays the leading role for capacity-building in the field of space law. In 2012, the University established the Keio Advanced Research Centre for Space Law, known as the Institute of Space Law. This inter-disciplinary research institute studies various aspects of space-related legal issues corresponding to the expansion of space activities and the development of space-related technology and its commercialization.

It aims to achieve three points.

The first, capacity-building in Japan's space law research by examining the legal aspects of various issues in space activities and improving the level of research in the field of space law.

The second is nurturing practitioners and researchers in the field of space law by providing knowledge on space law.

And finally, capacity-building in Asian countries in the area of space law.

The Space Law Masters Course at the Keio University's Graduate School of Law is a two-year programme that welcomes up to 10 graduate students, especially from the Asia-Pacific region. It provides opportunities to study various aspects of space law from the current status of discussion regarding international space law at the Legal Subcommittee to the domestic space laws of each country.

Students analyze the direction of law-making, the role of the United Nations-making(?) international space law and the positioning of space law in the international legal framework and the structures.

As I mentioned, JAXA is supporting research activities of Keio University as joint research programmes. There are five study groups during the 2013 to 2014 period. All five programmes are legally complex issues and we held many joint meetings annually, not only with Keio University, but also with other major university professors, such as the Sofia University, Deko(?) Universities and so on.

With regard to the second part, our Governmental Procurement Programmes, we have almost finished the study and submitted the final report draft to the competent ministries.

The outcomes of the study groups are presented through symposia. Public lectures and public discussions by space law experts and practitioners are also given at that time. In the last fiscal year, two symposia were successfully held. In the Fifth Symposium under the theme of "Legal Issues of International Mechanisms for Future Space Exploration", distinguished experts, including Mr. Jay Steptoe, Deputy General Counsel, NASA, Mr. Philippe Clerc, Head of Legal Affairs of CNES, and Mr. Julien Mariez, Head of the Corporate Legal Department, CNES, were invited and greatly contributed to the discussion.

And in the Sixth Symposium, Professor Dr. Armal Kerrest, Institute of Law of the International Space and Telecommunications, France, made a keynote presentation on the French Space Operations Act. These presentations and the panel discussions played a critical role in reaching Japanese space law research and education.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their generous support.

Now, I would like to introduce JAXA's contributions to the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, organized by IISL.

JAXA has been financially supporting the winner of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round to join the World Finals at the IAC.

In addition, JAXA also supports the Annual Japanese National Round by offering advice to student organizers and the despatching JAXA partner as judges.

Last year, JAXA sponsored students from the National Law University of Delhi, India, the winners of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round. It was our great pleasure that this University also won the World Finals

at the IAC, Toronto, as the representatives from the Asia-Pacific region, and the one with the speaker received the Best Speaker Award.

The University of Tokyo Graduate School of Public Policy launched a unique initiative in collaboration with JAXA named “The University of Tokyo Space Policy Initiative”, UTSPI. Since 2010, it has conducted joint research projects on space activities and public policy. Its purpose is to promote space policy study in Japan and to cultivate its practitioners and academic researchers. UTSPI is also working to establish international academic networks between universities and institutions in the United States, Europe, Russia and the Asia-Pacific region. Our hope is that this initiative will become an institute in the near future.

Currently, the initiative mainly consists of three types of activities. The first is our education for students through weekly lectures, the second is study groups, led by professors specializing in space policy and governance, and our outreach activities, such as open workshops.

For the graduates students’ weekly lectures, government officials(?), Space Agency officials(?), experts from industries, researchers and scholars are invited as lecturers. Space diplomacy has been the most emphasized topic recently. At the moment, a Space Governance Study Group is exploring a United States/Japan space collaboration and has been inviting foreign professors to these workshops for discussion.

In 2013, the University of Tokyo Policy Alternatives Research Institute, PARI, started a new research project concerning the space policy issues along with the perspective of Japan’s foreign policy and diplomacy. The objectives of the project are to establish a think tank for space policy issues focusing on foreign policy and diplomacy and to enhance the capacity needed for conducting research on space policy issues.

PARI’s tasks include collecting basic information concerning space policy issues, conducting research on a multilateral framework for assuring sustainability and the peaceful uses of outer space and promoting Japan’s space diplomacy and international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and it is also working to promote the United States/Japan space cooperation.

PARI has been communicating and collaborating with the think tanks, universities and the research institutes in foreign countries to carry out

research and analysis. It has also recognized the importance of networking with global experts and opinion(?) leaders to promote space policy studies and has been holding open workshops or symposia in Japan and abroad.

On the occasion of the twenty-first session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF-21, in Tokyo, PARI organized the International Workshop on Space Law and Policy for Social Development on 23 December last year. In this Workshop, distinguished expert, Dr. Makundo Lao(?), the National Institute of Advanced Studies, India, Dr. Gurunala Omaroba(?), Astro-Physical Institute, Kazakhstan, and Ms. Oraga(?) Burinskya(?), Chief, International Law Council of the Federal Space Agency. These three persons presented the recent developments of space law and policy, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, followed by a panel discussion entitled “Space Cooperation for Social Development in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

Finally, I would like to introduce JAXA’s capacity-building activities.

Now, JAXA’s internships have become popular, not only among future engineers and scientists, but also future lawyers. Every year, JAXA accepts several university students and legal apprentices internationally. Normally, the work at the Legal Affairs Division for two weeks. During this period, they conduct research on current issues on space law. At the end of the period, they submit a report to JAXA. Even after the internship, many of them have continued to be involved in the research programmes at the Keio University.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, JAXA will continuously support capacity-building in the field of space law and policy. We wish to strengthen international cooperation in these areas by promoting international networks and research cooperation.

And I would like to end my presentation by presenting one more capacity-building activity.

The Thirtieth International Symposium on Space Technology and Science, ISTS, is held at Kobe on 4-10 July this year, attracting over 1,000 international participants. In this Symposium, a session on space law policy and international cooperation covers various legal topics related with space activities. Japan welcomes many researchers and students from all over the world participating in this Symposium.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr. Kobata for your presentation.

Are there any questions delegations would like to raise?

Yes, I see the Russian Federation.

**Mr. V. M. GUDNOV** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not have questions. I just wanted to thank the distinguished delegate of Japan for an excellent presentation.

Let me note that, in spite of some temporary setbacks in political life, we have maintained a very good relationship with Japan and other countries and we are very grateful to our Japanese colleagues for their assistance in developing this type of educational structure. The Russian Federation representatives are very actively involved in this work so, once again, many thanks to Japan for showing an interest in our own accomplishments and we are always happy to attend their events.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Russian Federation for your statement.

Other delegations wishing to speak?

I see none.

So, again, thank you to Mr. Kobata for his presentation.

Distinguished delegates, we will then meet tomorrow promptly at 10.00 a.m. At that time, we will continue and hopefully suspend our consideration of agenda item 5, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties, with a statement by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

We will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 13, Proposals to the Committee for New Items to be Considered by the Subcommittee. We will then adjourn the plenary so that the Working Groups under items 5 and 6(a) can adopt their respective reports. The plenary will thereafter be resumed with a view of endorsing these reports and conclude items 5 and 6(a).

Are there any questions on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

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

*The meeting adjourned at 5.37 p.m.*