

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

Script

901st Meeting

Wednesday, 15 April 2015, 10.00 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. K-U Schrogl (Germany)

The meeting was called to order at 10.13 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 901st meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning we will continue our consideration of agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views, and we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 4, Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law, and we will continue our consideration of agenda item 5, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

We will hear one technical presentation this morning by a representative of the Space Generation Advisory Council entitled "The Space Generation Advisory Council: A Focus on the Space Law and Policy Project Group.

We will then adjourn the plenary meeting so the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space may hold its third meeting.

Distinguished delegates, I have received a communication from Namibia requesting to participate in the meetings of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee as an observer. I would, therefore, suggest that in conformity with past practice, we invite this delegation to attend the current session and to address the Subcommittee as appropriate. This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decision of the full Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

It is so decided.

General exchange of views (agenda item 3)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 3 on our agenda, General Exchange of Views.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative from Brazil and I give the floor to Brazil. You have the floor.

Ms. V. LOSS SANMARTIN (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my Delegation wishes to congratulate you for another year as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. This is a challenging task and your expert guidance was instrumental in ensuring the progress of the work of the fifty-third session. As we look forward to profitable discussions in the session, we express our wish to see significant advancements in the important and sometimes controversial topics addressed by the Subcommittee. Rest assured of our unrelenting support to the Legal Subcommittee and to your work.

I would also like to express our appreciation to Ms. Simonetta di Pippo and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs staff for their work in organizing and running this session.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to welcome the applications of Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and Oman for membership of COPUOS, which will join Qatar and El Salvador as new members of the Committee. The enlargement of COPUOS attests the growing importance given by States to the pressing issues we have at hand. It is also a reminder of the need to make progress to respond to the concerns of an increasing number of stakeholders. This enlarged membership signals an important message that more and more States recognize the importance of keeping space for peaceful uses only as a means of ensuring that the space environment is preserved and all countries can benefit from space science in an equitable, non-discriminatory manner.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, this year's agenda presents us both with new and old challenges. The complexity of developments in space activities require this Subcommittee to respond with effective and efficient legal solutions that can contribute to preserving space as a peaceful environment, an environment where activities can be carried out sustainably with due concern for safety and security.

As we prepare to resume our discussions on a proposal to streamline the organization of the work of this Subcommittee, we must consider the need for new legally binding solutions that can take into account past and present developments but also provide us with enough flexibility to deal with future challenges.

This Subcommittee has in recent years focused on discussions on non-legally binding mechanisms. While such instruments allow us to make limited progress on important and controversial issues and offer a contribution to advancements in space law, they are not an end in themselves and do not eliminate the need for discussions and negotiation of legally binding instruments. The need to prevent conflict and to ensure that only peaceful activities are conducted in outer space cannot be fully addressed by voluntary guidelines and similar instruments.

The role of space activities in supporting and fostering development mean that we cannot avoid discussing the need to re-examine, revise, amend and change the five United Nations treaties on outer space and ultimately, consider the need for additional treaties. It is in the interest of the international community to strengthen the Legal Subcommittee as a multilateral forum that can produce not only non-binding legal instruments but also make progress in the development of binding rules.

Mr Chairman, the negotiators who produced the five United Nations space treaties between 1967 and 1979 could not have foreseen the developments in space activities we are witnessing today.

At present, a much larger number of countries as well as businesses, universities and individuals operate as space actors. As we saw in the IISL/ECSL Seminar last Monday, more satellites are launched by the private sector than by governments. Moreover, individuals can now manufacture and commission the launch of micro-satellites. Space debris, the use of nuclear power sources and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities are all issues of which negotiators were oblivious or unaware in 1967.

It is to this changing scenario that we must respond. COPUOS is the legitimate forum for discussions on space law. Here, countries can discuss and negotiate legal solutions that provide the space community with legal certainty. More than ever, the international community requires a transparent, effective and predictable system, one that contributes to building confidence among nations and that can quell the threat of conflict.

COPUOS plays a unique role that cannot be relinquished in favour of seemingly faster and easier solutions that may only create imperfect instruments that do not reflect the complex interests and needs of both established and budding space actors in a multilateral world.

Mr. Chairman, Brazil acknowledges initiatives such as the International Code of Conduct as a welcome contribution to transparency and confidence-building measures. We also observe that the Code has helped raise awareness of issues of far-reaching consequences. However, the plurality of interests and opinions on the matters addressed by the Code require that these issues be addressed by multilateral negotiations within the United Nations system, preferably in COPUOS and its Subcommittees. Some delegations claim that concepts such as self-defence cannot be discussed in this Committee. We disagree. This is a false dilemma. Given the risks associated with any form of conflict in outer space, we must discuss whether the concept of self-defence could ever apply to outer space operations or whether other alternatives are more effective. This is a decision with profound implications to the sustainability of outer space activities and to the aims of this COPUOS. If we were to witness the use of weapons in outer space, COPUOS would in all likelihood become redundant.

Mr. Chairman, as we have stated in previous sessions of this Subcommittee, Brazil fully supports the principles enshrined in the United Nations treaties and principles on the use of outer space.

In this connection, Brazil fully endorses the statements made by Colombia on behalf of GRULAC and by Chile on behalf of the G77 and China. Brazil will continue to advocate, in all international forums, the importance for developing countries to have full access to the benefits of space technologies and applications by promoting data democracy policies and the use of open source software applications.

Mr. Chairman, my Delegation would like to praise the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the

joint ICAO/UN-OOSA Aerospace Symposium, which was held in Montreal last March. As you may recall, Brazil has advocated, over the years, the need for this Subcommittee to develop a legal framework that provides the necessary security required by commercial activities such as sub-orbital flights. We were, therefore, pleased to learn that, in agreement with the views expressed by this delegation in previous years, representatives of both academia and industry in the Symposium acknowledged the need for a sound legal framework that can provide legal security and allow commercial operations in this sector to flourish.

Unless the limits of outer space and airspace are mapped and a legal definition of outer space can be established, uncertainty will prevail and hinder progress in this sector.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, my delegation fully supports the application of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The use of nuclear power sources should follow a precautionary approach given that the consequences of even minor incidents could be catastrophic. Brazil believes that nuclear power sources should only be allowed in the case of deep space missions and only when other alternatives have been exhausted.

We fully support a revision and update of these Principles to bring them in line with the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and endorsed by the Commission on Safety Standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to reiterate its concern with the proliferation of space debris. A serious incident with debris seems to be a matter of time. New launches and existing orbiting space objects already face great risks from a huge mass of man-made debris orbiting the Earth. In addition, technological developments and the interest of a growing number of countries and individuals in space activities mean that more objects will be launched and are likely to compound the problem in the near future.

Beyond technical discussions in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we have to develop legal solutions that can address the problems and consequences associated with space debris in a fair manner. It is important to find a balance between the long-term sustainability of space activities, the prevention of collisions, and the historical

responsibilities of space-faring nations for existing debris. The mitigation, of space debris is of paramount importance, but mitigation solutions should not impose undue costs on the space programs of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to announce that Brazil intends to propose a new single issue for discussion at the fifty-fifth session of this Subcommittee, which is an analysis of the issues associated with the proliferation of micro-satellites in order to assess the need to develop specific norms, regulations and guidelines and ensure such devices do not become a threat to the sustainability of outer space activities. This will be detailed in the discussion of agenda item 13.

Mr Chairman, I would like to conclude as I began, by reaffirming Brazil's commitment to COPUOS. We will continue to work and cooperate with the strengthening of the Legal Subcommittee. It is by working together here that all member States can develop legal solutions that contribute to ensure that the benefits of space activities are shared by all of mankind.

Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Brazil, Ms. Loss Sanmartin, for her statement and also for your initiative for a new agenda item which I look forward to being discussed under our agenda item 13.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of South Africa. You have the floor Madam.

Ms. L. GREYLING (South Africa): Thank you Mr. Chairman and good morning to colleagues.

Mr Chairman, the South African delegation wishes you well and looks forward to your sharing of expertise and insights of developments in international space policy and regulation to help this Legal Subcommittee to reach greater heights in the progressive developments of new norms and rules in space exploration and use. As always, please be assured of South Africa's constructive engagement in the Legal Subcommittee.

The South African delegation would further like to recognize the distinguished work of the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the professional and dynamic manner in which the

Secretariat has prepared the Legal Subcommittee for this important meeting.

We would in particular commend the work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the organization of the Workshop on Space Law on the Role of National Space Legislation in Strengthening the Rule of Law, as held in China in November last year, as it addressed key issues such as the rule of law and global governance of space activities and importantly considered capacity-building in space law.

South Africa further associates itself with the statement made by Chile on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr Chairman, South Africa continues to view this Legal Subcommittee as the premier forum for the discussion of international space law issues and would, therefore, like to reiterate this Subcommittee's historical mission to discuss important questions in order to guarantee the rule of law in outer space activities, the progressive development of space law, and the peaceful uses of outer space as the province of all mankind.

South Africa reiterates that items of importance, in particular for developing countries, such as international cooperation, long-term sustainability of space activities, capacity-building, and space debris, among others, should continue to be meaningfully addressed by this Subcommittee.

South Africa continues to break new ground and explore the best possible ways to ensure that space activities are conducted in accordance and in compliance with the existing international space legal rules. We diligently pursue appropriate ways to contribute to the positive development of space law in order to achieve the objectives set out in relevant international space treaties.

Mr Chairman, this Subcommittee's discussions on elements of national legislation relevant to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space have been beneficial to South Africa as we embark as a country on a review of our national space legislation.

South Africa is continuing with its process of reform of our domestic space legislation to incorporate new trends in national space activities. In this regard, we hope to have a new Space Affairs Act in the near future.

Mr Chairman, we are grateful for the efforts by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

regarding capacity-building in space law. South Africa has always attempted to be a catalyst for capacity-building initiatives on the African continent. South Africa has assimilated various mechanisms useful in achieving a more effective, coordinated and demand-driven capacity-building programme.

In this regard, the International Institute of Space Law has established an effective platform for cooperation among the participating countries through the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. This Competition will continue to assist in drawing a pool of legal practitioners and students to the space law environment.

In South Africa, we continue our commitment to capacity-building in space law. The University of Pretoria continues to offer a yearly short summer course on air, space and telecommunications law, aimed at introducing space law issues to legal practitioners, policy decision-makers in private and State institutions, as well as law students. The Master's Programme in Space Law is part of the University's Public International Law Programme. Doctoral candidates in Space Law are also supervised at this University.

The South Africa Council for Space Affairs has incorporated advocacy in space law as a crucial component of its public awareness activities. These include workshops and presentations about specific United Nations Treaties to capacitate general stakeholders that need to implement space legislation and appearances at exhibitions and other public fora where space activities are discussed.

Mr Chairman, international cooperation remains the cornerstone of South Africa's Space Programme. As has been mentioned by numerous delegations thus far at this meeting, South Africa looks forward to the increased synergy and cooperation between the work of the Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittees.

Mr Chairman, let us wish you and this Legal Subcommittee a productive session.

I thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of South Africa, Ms. Greyling, for her statement.

I have now on my list two observers which have asked for the floor.

The first is the distinguished representative of Oman. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. K. ALRUBKHI (Oman) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you very much Chairman.

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, my delegation would like to convey its gratitude to the Chairman of the Subcommittee as well as to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for kindly studying the request of admission for the Sultanate of Oman.

In this regard, we would now like to express the interest that the Sultanate of Oman has attached to the peaceful uses of outer space.

In 1974, the Sultanate built the very first satellite communications station with a 32 metre-wide steerable antenna, after having established four additional stations in the territory of the Sultanate of Oman. We have also established means of communication in order to strengthen our technological development. We have communication satellites in place for both broad and multiple bandwidth which serve to link rural areas with industrialized areas, making use of platforms for oil exploration and exploitation.

We have also set up a new company that provides significant information and communication services through the use of a Very Small Aperture Terminal, VSAT. We have also made use of telemetry and remote sensing services in order to study the features of our soil and intra-ecological surveillance. We have also signed ARABSAT as well as the Convention on the International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, and have adhered to numerous international and regional conventions and treaties too, such as, for example, the Convention on Broadband Radio Service, BRS, as well as the ITSO Convention for Space Communications in 1971, the Convention on ARAB, Arab Space Communication, n 1976, as well as the Convention on Mobile Satellite, IMSO, in 1976, and adhere to the ITU.

All of these Conventions support the work that we have undertaken in the field of space exploration. We have also continued our study of climate change and meteorology. We also have enhanced our cooperation efforts with the various organizations, international and regional partners and academia.

The Sultanate of Oman upholds its various commitments in this field and would like to state that

we fully support the peaceful uses of outer space and would like to join in the efforts that have been made.

Once again, we re-state our interest in becoming members of this Committee in order to further enhance the peaceful uses of outer space and thus play a role in the field of international cooperation.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate from Oman, Mr. Alrubkhi, for his statement.

Next on my list is the observer from the Secure World Foundation. You have the floor.

Mr. C. JOHNSON (Secure World Foundation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation extends our appreciation to you for your continued excellent guidance of this Subcommittee. We are pleased that this Subcommittee continues to successfully provide effective support to the peaceful uses of outer space, especially for emerging and developing space States. The Secure World Foundation continues to offer its support to the Subcommittee in any way it can.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate this opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since the last session of the Subcommittee and work we have conducted in support of the aims of the Legal Subcommittee.

Secure World focuses its work on three primary themes, ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, fostering development of sound space policy and law, and enhancing the use of space technology and international cooperation in support of human and environmental security on Earth.

Over the past year, Secure World has conducted numerous workshops, panels and other meetings related to space law and space policy.

In December 2014, Secure World and Astra Consulting International hosted a Conversation on Space Systems Expert Control between the United States and Japan. Participants from various United States governmental agencies and representatives from non-governmental organizations and thinktanks were invited to participate in the Conversation, discussing export controls with the delegation of industry representatives, from the society of Japanese aerospace companies. The goal of the discussion was to share the

United States experience with expert control reform with our Japanese colleagues.

In March 2015, Secure World sponsored and participated in the Third Manfred Lachs International Conference “A New Space Commercialization in the Law”, held in Montreal, Canada. Secure World presented on the political and security implications of on-orbit servicing and our Executive Director, Dr. Michael Simpson, chaired sessions and participated in a panel considering international initiatives to regulate emerging and next generation commercial activities in outer space.

In March 2015, Secure World Foundation and the George Washington University Military Law Society hosted a panel discussion on the relationship between international law and military activities in space. Over the last several decades, legal scholars and practitioners have clarified the rules of international law applicable to military activities in several domains with documents such as the Harvard Manual on International Law, applicable to air and missile warfare, and most recently the Tulin(?) Manual on the international law applicable to cyber warfare. However, to date, there have not been significant attempts to clarify how international law applies to military activities in space. The panel discussion provided an overview of international law as it applies to military activities and of the potential benefits of further clarification existing norms and interpretations of international law as these apply to the space domain.

Also in March 2015, Secure World and UNIDIR, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, hosted a discussion on the “Principles of Self-Defence in Space: National Perspectives in Critical Issues”, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Interpreting how existing national commitments on the inherent right of self-defence, as enshrined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter should be applied to the outer space environment as a key step in moving towards a more stable space environment. There is currently significant divergence among many members of the international community on the way forward.

In light of ongoing discussions on norms and behaviour and a new legally-binding agreement focused on space security, this meeting was an opportunity for States to share perspectives and viewpoints on key issues such as the concept of an armed attack in outer space, proportional responses, the principle of distinction in outer space and radiofrequency interference.

In April 2015, last week, in San Jose, Costa Rica, Secure World Foundation co-organized a regional Workshop on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities. This two-day Workshop, co-organized with the Central American Association for Aeronautics in Space, ACAE, and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, engaged representatives from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries, GRULAC, who are members of COPUOS, in the context of the United Nations COPUOS long-term sustainability guidelines effort, and other international initiatives to promote long-term space sustainability. This Workshop served as a platform to advance regional space sustainability discussions within Latin America.

The Workshop engaged space policy experts and GRULAC delegations in an active discussion on the long-term sustainability guidelines effort and other relevant international and regional sustainability activities and opportunities for progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all of its peoples. We act as a research body, a convener of discussions and a facilitator advocating for international cooperation in solving the problems of space debris, orbital crowding and other threats to the sustainable use of outer space.

The Secure World Foundation strongly believes that the challenges of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international and cooperative manner. Delegations may learn more about our Foundation by visiting our website at www.swfound.org.

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation supports the work of COPUOS as the benefits of space activities expand in number and improving quality, keeping outer space available for peaceful activities will become ever more important, as will our continued ability to use space capabilities to help solve our most pressing challenges here on Earth. Thus, we are presented with both challenges and opportunities for the continued benefit of the use of space for all humanity. We look forward to continue to support this Subcommittee’s efforts to achieve such a future.

Thank you for your time.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Johnson from the Secure World Foundation for his statement. Thank you.

I have received a request for the floor from another member of the Committee, from Cuba, and I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Cuba, Ambassador Marsan. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. J. C. MARSAN AGUILERA (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chair.

I would like to begin by expressing our satisfaction at seeing you, once again, Chairman, at this session of the Subcommittee. At the moment, we express our will to contribute with your management to achieve the goals of this session.

The Cuban delegation backs the statements made on behalf of the G77 and China and the Group of States of Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively.

Chairman, Cuba puts particular importance by developing science and space science and technology for peaceful ends for the present and future of humanity, as well as a contribution which could contribute to developing our countries. The services that these technologies provide are communications, study of the climate and natural disaster management, *inter alia*, are irrefutable proof of the contribution and the need for us to preserve outer space exclusively for peaceful uses. Our country confirms that the treaties and principles adopted by the United Nations for outer space are the legal basis which must govern development of space activities.

Nonetheless, we consider that this international legislation is insufficient to guarantee the ban on stationing and deployment of weapons in this scenario. This Subcommittee, thus, should be the appropriate forum in which we discuss this issue and promote the creation of new instruments which regulate and assure the use solely for peaceful ends of outer space. The intention to transfer the arms race to outer space are greater every day which threatens not just the peace of space but also the very substance of the human race. In this context, we repeat the need for complete elimination of nuclear armaments in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable way and to begin urgently multilateral negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument which bans nuclear weapons and establishes their destruction with a multilaterally agreed schedule.

The Cuban delegation considers that there is nothing more practical and pressing than to address this problem in a multilateral framework and with the

active participation of international bodies involved including COPUOS.

Chairman, defining and delimiting outer space is another issue which needs our urgent attention as well as establishing basic legal norms which provide guarantees for the non-discriminatory of geostationary orbit, regulate access to space of private entities and which provide measures to reduce the danger related to space debris of indiscriminatory use of nuclear power sources in space.

In this vein, the discussion must continue on the examination and possible review of the principles relating to the use of nuclear power sources and promoting binding norms for the use of these sources.

Cuba, like most of the developing countries, adequate use of geostationary orbit is a crucial issue. We repeat that this limited natural resource, and which is clearly close to saturation, must be used in a rational way and made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacity. We hope that this issue will continue to be part of the agenda of this Subcommittee stimulating broader debate on this issue and be included in the guidelines for long-term sustainability which are being devised.

Cuba restates that the recent phenomena such as the entry of private transnational companies of the issue of aerospace vehicles which are not adequately reflected in current legislation, demonstrates the need to continue reviewing, updating and strengthening the legal regime for outer space in order to guarantee the safety, security and transparency in the conducting of space activities.

Similarly, we support the initiatives begun to strengthen regulations and the exchange of precise and opportune information of these. Our delegation considers that we must continue applying action to reduce space debris and that we need to establish a programme for removal of major debris. We should begin as soon as possible.

For all of these reasons, the Cuban delegation insists on the need to keep the time allotted to the work of the Subcommittee and not limit its work to practical aspects of space law, rather but also try to address theoretical questions which contribute to coveting the lacunae in international space legislation at the moment. We consider that we need to revitalize the work of the Subcommittee and we consider that, to this end, we need to give a greater content, generating debates and analysis which help bolster the international legal framework. At the same time, it

would be very helpful if this Subcommittee increased its interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to establish a multilateral-type norm which regulates activities in outer space, responding to new scientific and technological progress and discoveries.

Without doubt, the synergy between both Subcommittees will contribute to understanding, acceptance and genuine application of the legal instruments of the United Nations in this field.

Chairman, Cuba sustains firmly that regional and international cooperation is one of the fundamental pillars in making use of outer space. Cooperation makes possible the exchange of knowledge and best practice, as well as capacity-building nationally and regionally. In this vein, we urge the Secretariat to continue supporting the participation of experts from developing countries in training programmes related to space law and other issues related to space applications in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to repeat our support for the principle of access to outer space on an equal footing for the benefit of all States and without any discrimination while re-stating our conviction of the need to preserve outer space for exclusively peaceful ends.

Thank you very much Chair.

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

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak under agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views, this morning?

I see Chile.

Ms. T. ALVAREZ (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chair. Very briefly. I would like to come back to the statement just made by the delegate from the Secure World Foundation, simply to express our thanks for the excellent Workshop held last week in Costa Rica, one on long-term sustainability of outer space activities in which various delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean were able to take part to share experience and progress in all matters related to long-term sustainability. So I would like to express our thanks for the excellent opportunity provided by the Secure World Foundation and the Government of Costa Rica which hosted various experts from the region and helped us to share our practice in these matters.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Chile.

Any other delegation wishing to speak?

I see none.

So we will continue consideration of this agenda item, agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views, this afternoon.

Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (agenda item 4)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 4, Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law.

I have on my list so far two observers and we will start with the International Law Association represented by Ms. Williams.

You have the floor.

Ms. M. WILLIAMS (International Law Association): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. The International Law Association has been reporting to the Legal Subcommittee for a long time now, nine years in a row in my case. So I think at this stage I shall skip details and I shall skip reference to documents which anyway may be found in the written document circulated by the Legal Subcommittee under item 4 or else on the website of the International Law Association.

I shall simply recall that the ILA is 142 years of age. Its headquarters are in London. The Space Law Committee is over 50 years old. The Head of the ILA is Lord Mance, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. The world current President is Professor Ruth Wedgewood of the United States and the officers of the Committee are Professor Stephan Hobe, who must be somewhere in this room, as the General Rapporteur and the present speaker as Chair.

Having said this, I will only add that our general practice is to work together with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, that we have observer status since 1990 in COPUOS and that we notice in this room today a

number of distinguished delegates who are active members of the International Law Association.

Having said this, I shall concentrate on the points of substance contained in the four central topics under study by the ILA.

As announced last year at the Legal Subcommittee, we were on the eve of the seventy-sixth Conference of the ILA which followed immediately after that, and the Space Law Committee was focusing on its new Terms of Reference.

The Washington Working Session was in tribute to Professor Kopal for his outstanding contribution to our work and the Working Group in Washington was very well attended. Among the distinguished delegates, we had the Head of the United States delegation to COPUOS and we also had a representative of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

What follows now are the results and the progressive development of our task in preparation for the seventy-seventh biannual Conference of the ILA in August 2016 in Johannesburg.

The central points of our work currently addressed by the ILA Space Law Committee are dispute settlement, sub-orbital flight, use of satellite data in international litigation and recent developments and applications, and space debris removal.

So I shall take these four issues in turn.

Dispute settlement. Our work circled around the new rules on arbitration, drafted and prepared by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, effective since 6 December 2011, and the general opinion there was that these rules were necessary, they were an essential step forward in the progressive development of the law enabling private parties to have local standai(?) in space-related disputes. And this was a sharp departure from the rules of the United Nations outer space treaties so the Committee highlighted the flexibility of the rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration which avoided limitations, both in the personal and material scope.

Now, the task of the ILA Space Law Committee on this topic is to continue creating awareness of the existence of these rules and to explore their effectiveness. To this end, at the Washington Working Session it was suggested that a questionnaire be circulated to the space industry for further elucidation. The ILA Committee agreed that, in the

short term, the rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration should not be tightened.

With reference to the four central topics we are addressing during the Washington Conference, there was also agreement that these new topics could, at some stage, lead to friction over matters of interpretation and others and, if so, given the great flexibility and procedural nature, the PCA Rules of 2011 would appear a suitable means of minimizing differences.

The second topic, sub-orbital flight. This topic was an entirely new one on the agenda of the Space Law Committee and it was introduced in Washington by the General Rapporteur, Professor Stephan Hobe. Reference was made to preliminary discussions on the matter and the opposed use on the need for definitions which, in turn, raised again the issue of the definition and delimitation of outer space and the relationship with ICAO which was considered most important.

The Washington Working Session circled around these questions and developed them further. Opposed attitudes continued as a result of the lack of precedents. Various points of contention on the applicability of the Liability Convention to sub-orbital flight, designed to cover cases of third party liability were clearly identified. This gave way to proposals for having national legislation on the matter which would help.

The application of the Registration Convention was clearly ruled out when it confined its scope to space objects launched into Earth orbit or beyond. And, Mr. Chairman, it was argued, moreover, that liability waivers could not cover cases of gross negligence and that space law was not intended to govern transportation. In this sense, the view was expressed that sub-orbital flights were in conflict with Articles II, III and VII of the Outer Space Treaty and that, given the undefined status, they could be in conflict with Article IV of the 1967 Treaty.

Another point of contention was the legal status of space tourists and whether they should be seen as astronauts, personnel onboard the spacecraft, envoys of mankind or come under a new different terminology. Space tourists do not fit easily into any of these categories let alone personnel onboard that refers in its ordinary meaning to those involved in the flight operation. Moreover, the term "astronaut" appears only once in the Outer Space Treaty and that is in Article V when referring to astronauts as envoys of

mankind and then this term is not at all used in the Rescue Agreement.

On general lines, a definition of sub-orbital flight was considered premature at this stage. A majority concurred on the need for a broad approach, and in this sense, it was more realistic to have a description, which, by nature, is non-exhaustive.

The third topic is the use of satellite data and recent developments. During the previous mandate of the Committee, we have practically exhausted research on issues underlined the use of satellite data and its value as evidence in international disputes.

The Space Law Committee moved ahead to consider other applications of satellite data and there were three questions on the agenda that dominated this agenda.

First, the protection of privacy. Second, space security and cyber security and the third was sea-level rise.

Protection of privacy. The ILA introduced this question last year to the Legal Subcommittee. The predominant idea advocated caution when interpreting the principle of freedom of information in extreme courts. Indeed, within the scope of the Committee, far-reaching technology such as Google Earth were frequently seen as a threat to the right of privacy. So now the challenge for the Committee is to establish what should be considered an acceptable balance between freedom of information and the protection of privacy and this, seen in the abstract, is no easy task. It would be now valid to discuss whether the classic paradigm should be clear.

Second question, space security and cyber security. Some of the ILA members were present at a Symposium held in London last summer, in July, on these topics and they were all quite concerned, very much depend on space technology. And, in fact, a recent drone technology was described in some cases as a disrupting, an unexpected threat from non-State actors, especially as it is connecting with space security and there was an analysis of the positions of China, France, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States on this topic.

Sea-level rise is also quite worrying. We are working together with the Sea-Level Rise Committee, newly created. We thought it very important, very dependent on satellite data and the current thinking is that it may call into question the whole architecture of the Law of the Sea.

Fourth, central topics, space debris removal. The accent was placed in removal of space debris and, for example, it was currently interpreted as it would combine debris removal with satellite servicing operations. Some of the members considered that the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Working Group is very important and that perhaps the legal sector should have a word on this. The topic is in clear need of a more precise legal framework. And then there was a Regional Conference in Brazil, in Sao Paulo, last October, it was a Congress on International Environmental Law. There were some members of the Space Law Committee taking part and the need for space removal was considered most important and the legal sides thoroughly discussed.

Finally, there was consensus on the need for closer cooperation between the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. This would possible iron out differences and enable the drafting of a joint, possibly coherent, document which would ease the way for viable solutions.

Mr. Chairman, the feeling we got, the Space Law Committee, in our recent work was, and I am quoting Stephen Hawking here, it was the following, that we are living a revolt by ever more intelligent robots who, by contriving to redesign themselves, evolve at a speed mere humans could never hope to reach.

To finalize, I would like to announce that a Handbook on Space Law is just out in London. The publishers are Edward Elgar Publishing. It is both in book format and is also an e-book and the General Editor is François Nedeau(?) with the cooperation of Fabio Trancetti(?).

So on this point, Mr. Chairman, I shall close the 2014 Report. This is just a glimpse of the state-of-the-art and the outline of our future work in preparation for the Johannesburg Conference in August 2016.

Thank you very much for allowing me to give a flash on all this and we look forward to continuing cooperation with COPUOS and its two Committees in the future.

Many thanks.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Professor Williams for her report on the work of the International Law Association. Thank you very much.

And we turn to the report on the work of the European Centre for Space Law. Mr. Boulle.

Mr. E. BOULLE (European Centre for Space Law): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, colleagues, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak before you here today. It is my great pleasure and privilege to present the activities of the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL, over the last 12 months.

For those who do not know the ECSL, I am confident that Monday's Symposium on Space Traffic Management, which the ECSL proudly co-sponsors with the International Institute for Space Law, will have served as a welcome introduction to the Centre and its activities.

I propose to briefly run through some background information concerning the Centre by way of introduction. I will discuss our recent, ongoing and forthcoming activities by reference to the stated objectives of the Centre in our Charter. In accomplishing those objectives, we are not simply fulfilling our own mandate but offering a valuable resource in the capacity-building programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and which is a regular item on this Committee's agenda.

The ECSL was established in 1989, under the auspices of the European Space Agency and with the support of a number of pioneers in the field of space law. It is established under a Charter, amended as of October 2009, which defines its structure and objectives.

Beginning with the administrative structure, the ECSL General Meeting, open to all our members, takes place every three years with the authority to elect the ECSL Board and amend the Charter. The next meeting shall be convened at the end of this year. The Board, comprised of 10 academics and practitioners, meets biannually to oversee the ECSL's initiatives. As of this year, the Board has decided to invite an elected student representative to each Board Meeting in order to give young people a voice in ECSL strategy. The Executive Secretariat is in charge of the day-to-day management and growth of the Centre's activities.

Turning now to the stated objectives of the ECSL, we can identify three central objectives. First, the dissemination of knowledge and teaching of the legal framework governing space activities. Second, the pooling and sharing of resources in support of research projects in this field. And third, the creation of a lasting forum for the interdisciplinary and international exchange of ideas.

I should now like to identify the Centre's activities in the context of each of these objectives.

First, the dissemination of knowledge and teaching of the legal framework governing space activities and this is perhaps the primary objective of the ECSL and here again, the ECSL can be a useful resource in capacity-building in space law.

The ECSL is the official regional organizer of the European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, and the European branch of the Competition, I am pleased to say, continues to grow. In 2014, two moot court states, the Federation of Akera and the Commonwealth of Mheni, two fictional Moot Court States, were ably and fearlessly represented by 15 teams, comprised of 45 students from 10 countries, in a dispute brought before the International Court of Justice which was temporarily convened at the Wroclaw University in Poland, and that was a case concerning satellite electromagnetic interference.

Additionally, the ECSL held a special half-day Symposium held in honour of Professor and great jurist, Manfred Lachs, in recognition of the event's arrival in his native Poland. The 2015 edition of the European Rounds will take place from 1-5 June at the Union University Law School in Belgrade, Serbia.

There is also the ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy. Each year the ECSL organizes an intensive two-week Summer Course at a different location with the support of a host institution. The main objective of the Summer Course is to provide students and young professionals with an overview of the international and domestic legal framework for space activities and to stimulate their interest in topical issues in the field. The participants must additionally prepare and present a final project combining the teaching content they have received with independent research and we are very proud that the Summer Course on the Office for Outer Space Affairs Directory of Educational Opportunities in Space Law.

The twenty-third edition of the Summer Course was organized at the headquarters of the ITU in Geneva. The programme saw 33 classes given by 30 different speakers to a total of 52 students and young professionals. The participants worked on a multi-dimensional project to propose a comprehensive satellite programme to meet the World Society on Information Summit objectives on 'digital divide'. That required them to think not only like space lawyers but also like social entrepreneurs. The course was

broken up with excursions to the ITU Discovery Museum and the CERN Large Hadron Collider. So this, then, is where space law meets sub-atomic physics. The Summer Course concluded with a special event. The entire student body was invited to attend the celebratory event held by ESA, commemorating 50 Years of European Cooperation in Space Science. The students were even privileged to be present for a live up-link to the International Space Station courtesy of the ITU Amateur Radiocommunications Bureau.

Applications will soon open for the twenty-fourth edition of the Summer Course which will take place in September at the University of Caen in Normandy, France.

In 2014 it was decided to inaugurate the first ECSL Essay Competition. The Competition aims at encouraging students to think critically about a particular topic in space law and refine their research skills. The question chosen for the first year of the competition was “What are the main legal issues raised by space mining?” So much interest was shown by students wishing to register for the competition in its first year that it was necessary to put a cap on the total number of registrations for the sake of the jury. The competition has been a great success in its first year and it will be renewed for a second edition and the title being proposed is “What is the current and what could be the prospective legal regime for non-orbital flights?”.

Finally, the ECSL continues to proudly co-sponsor the Symposium with the IISL and this Subcommittee has noted with appreciation in its reports that the Symposium constitutes a valuable contribution to its work.

Turning to the second objective, the creation of a lasting and international forum for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas. The ECSL creates an international forum simply by having a broad network of members and National Points of Contact.

ECSL membership runs annually and brings together currently over 150 interested parties ranging from industry and agency representatives, lawyers, academics and student members in order to encourage international exchange at all levels and members principally come from ESA member States, associated and Cooperating States.

The ECSL has an established network of National Points of Contact in 14 ESA member States so far and they provide local support for ECSL activities and facilitate contact between members and

the National Points of Contact are often very active in their own right in the field of space law.

The ECSL supports an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas. It organizes an annual Practitioners’ Forum and has done so every year, a one-day forum at the ESA Headquarters in Paris since 1992. The Forum addresses the latest legal developments impacting upon space activities and continues to be a tremendous success. It is a fantastic opportunity for space industry stakeholders to hear from one another and express their views in a closed forum and this year’s edition of the Practitioner’s Forum was held on 27 March and discussed “European Space Governance: Regulation of Space Activities”. Some 85 attendees heard from speakers from ESA, the EU Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union and industry trade groups.

Turning to the third of our primary objects, that is, pooling resources and supporting space law research projects. The ECSL provides educational tools and research documents of use to practitioners, academics and students. I shall outline them only briefly here but I invite the distinguished delegates to consult the ECSL website for more information at www.esa.int/ecsl.

First, the ECSL keeps an online legal database which provides quick and easy links to national and international space law texts with a section dedicated to the various United Nations legal instruments. There are extensive space law bibliographies organized thematically and chronologically of key events influencing space law. In this respect, the ECSL legal database has the potential to support the Office for Outer Space Affairs’ newly published curriculum on space law by providing additional materials for those interested in particular subjects or periods.

Following the completion of a large-scale project in 2013, the ECSL maintains a catalogued archive of thousands of hard copy documents at the ESA Headquarters in Paris. Consultations may be made upon request to the ECSL Executive Secretary.

And finally, at the last ECSL Board Meeting, the ECSL decided to investigate the creation of a space law smartphone application, the ECSL App. This would be the first of its kind, or at least that we are aware of. Once implemented, the App will give students and practitioners easy mobile access, formatted to a mobile App, to space law texts and instruments and information about the activities of the ECSL.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I thank you again for inviting me to make this statement on behalf of the ECSL. I should also like to point out that copies of the newly published ECSL Newsletter with further information on our activities are available to all outside this auditorium.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Boulle for his statement and the report on the activities of the European Centre for Space Law.

Are there any other delegations or observers wishing to speak before I conclude the consideration of this agenda item?

I see none.

We have, therefore, concluded our consideration of agenda item 4, Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (agenda item 5)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 5, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

So far, I do not have any speakers on my list. Is there any delegation wishing to speak?

Yes, I see the Russian Federation. You have the floor.

Mr. A. V. KALININ (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you very much Chairman. A brief comment related to our consideration of this agenda item, the agenda of this Legal Subcommittee.

I would like to make the following observation. I would like to note that today, more than ever before, it is clearly evident that there is a need for an in-depth study in this Committee of the causes for which the level of participation among member States to various treaties remains very low. We believe this is basically due to the following factors. States that have been reticent to accede to these treaties because there are shortcomings or loopholes in terms of space law and also in terms of the obligations derived from this. By way of example, the Treaty on Liability or the Liability Convention rather, the Registration of Space

Objects Convention, the need to establish a law of governing these objects in space.

And thank you very much to the delegation of Germany and the delegation of Canada for the questions and comments that they have raised as regards the expanded questionnaire. These are significant contributions to our consideration of this agenda item. An ongoing discussion of these matters only confirms the need to pursue this exchange of views.

As regards the implementation of the primary treaties on the application of space law, we feel it is necessary that the work of this Subcommittee continue in this field.

Thank you very much.

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

Any other delegation wishing to speak?

I see none.

Therefore, we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 5, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, this afternoon.

Technical presentation

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed with the one technical presentation which is scheduled for this morning.

This technical presentation we will hear is by Mr. Thomas Cheney of the Space Generation Advisory Council and it is entitled "The Space Generation Advisory Council: A Focus on the Space Law and Policy Project Group".

You have the floor.

Mr. T.E.L. CHENEY (Space Generation Advisory Council): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee.

The Space Generation Advisory Council was founded as a result of the 1999 UNISPACE-III Conference and has been a permanent observer member of COPUOS since 2001 and a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council since

2003. SGAC has a volunteer network of more 4,000 members in over 90 countries.

The Space Law and Policy Project Group is one of seven SGAC Project Groups focused on a diverse array of space-related topics. The Space Law and Policy Project Group was originally founded by Joyeeta Chatterjee and Christopher Johnson in 2012. The current co-leads of the Group are Joyeeta Chatterjee and Sandra Cabrera Alvarado. The Group currently has in excess of 18 members from Asia, Europe, Africa, North America and Australia.

The Space Law and Policy Project Group originally focused solely on space law but recently expanded its remit to include space policy. The Space Law and Policy Project Group is open to all members of SGAC, including those from non-legal or policy backgrounds and currently includes several engineers.

The objectives of the Space Law and Policy Project Group are to engage in critical debates about actual legal and policy aspects concerning space activities, investigate legal and regulatory challenges faced by the space community, propose space-related policy recommendations, address potentially emerging questions and issues in the space sector and to develop research papers regarding trending questions and issues of the space community.

There have been numerous, recent and ongoing projects that members of the Space Law and Policy Project Group have been and are currently involved with.

The Space Security and Governance Roundtable was held during the sixty-fifth International Astronautical Congress in Toronto, between 29 September and 3 October 2014. The Roundtable offered IAC and Space Generation Congress attendees the opportunity to discuss key topics and exchange views with the leaders of the space sector on how space technologies can assist governments to address national security issues for an international audience.

The joint project between the SGAC and Swiss Space Systems entitled "Regulatory and Economical Aspects of Nano-Satellites" includes a survey, analysis and a publication on this important issue. It also involves two other SGA Project Groups, the Small Satellite Project Group and the Commercial Space Project Group. The aim of the project is identify how technical, regulatory and financial development paths are handled by different organizations at different geographies. The results will be published once the

survey has been completed and the survey will be opened in May.

The overall project's lead is Ana Raposo and the lead for the Space Law and Policy Project Group is Dorina Andoni. Interested parties should feel free to contact nanosatsurvey@spacegeneration.org.

The Space Law and Policy Project Group produced a response to United Nations questions on sub-orbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation on behalf of the Space Generation Advisory Council. The project was headed by Lauren Napier and has been published as document A/AC.105/1039/Add.4 and can be found on the Office for Outer Space Affairs' website.

The Space Law and Policy Project Group argues that it is a good initiative and should be continuing discussion in the Legal Subcommittee.

As part of a joint project with the SGAC Space Safety and Sustainability Project Group, the SGAC Space Law and Policy Project Group is working on a paper proposal for the IAC 2015. The proposal is entitled "International Spacecraft Design Policies for Orbital Servicing" and the Space Law and Policy Project Group members involved are Karina Wardak, Nathan Johnson and Hannes Mayer.

A project that is currently in the early stages of development, and that is being spearheaded by Sandra Cabrera Alvarado, is a draft convention on planetary defence, that is being worked on in conjunction with the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautics and Space Law and Commercial Aviation. This project will address the vital issue of near-Earth objects and the legal aspects of planetary defence.

The Space Law and Policy Project Group has also recently produced an educational directory of courses relating to space policy which was modelled on the United Nations educational curriculum on space law. This project was led by Joel Dennerley and is currently being reviewed by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Space Education Office with the aim of future publication.

A Celestial Resources Working Group is investigating the laws relating to celestial resources and was prompted by the recent interest in space mining. The starting point for the Group's research is Article II of the Outer Space Treaty and the Group is being led by myself, Thomas Cheney and Kesorpheareom Chea.

The SGAC Space Law and Policy Project Group provides an excellent opportunity for students and young professionals to work on academic journal articles even as undergraduate students. Two recent efforts include the paper entitled “Policy Analysis: Air versus Space. Where Does Sub-Orbital Flights Fit in for International Regulation” written for the Journal of Science Policy and Governance by Lauren Napier and Thomas Cheney, which is currently awaiting publication.

The Journal of Space Policy has recently requested a submission from the SGAC’s Space Law and Policy Project Group and this project is being led by Joel Dennerley.

The Space Law and Policy Project Group is currently in the process of developing and improving our online library, the Biblioteca Spatialis, which is intended to provide a space to enable the views of our Group members to be published and to share information with the professional community and the general public.

Lauren Napier is leading a project to create a resume book for SGAC students and young professionals in the fields of space law and policy. Once completed, this will be sent to the SGAC contacts in industry, government and academia. The project is intended to improve the employment prospects and availability of SGAC members. Any interested parties should contact Lauren Napier at j.lauren.napier@gmail.com. As an organization of students and young professionals, we, of course, have a considerable interest in finding relevant job opportunities and if you are looking for a student or a young professional, feel free to come and chat to us.

If you would like to know more about the Space Generation Advisory Council’s Space Law and Policy Project Group, you can get in touch with us or follow us via our website, Twitter account, Facebook or LinkedIn pages. We welcome all enquiries and relish potential prospects for collaboration and there will be somebody sat at this desk for the duration of the Committee.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Cheney for his presentation. Are there any questions from the delegations which you would like to ask the presenter?

Yes, I see Chile.

Mr. R. GONZALEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chairman. First of all, all warm congratulations to the delegate of the Space Generation Advisory Council. And I took part in third Conference on Space and I can tell you that this was one of the very helpful fruits of that Conference and I can tell you that, over time, this forum, this body, has continued to expand its scope of informal matters and more substantive ones.

Nonetheless, I have a few small doubts that I would like to dispel now without prejudice to our discussing for the later. If you like, I am slightly a schizophrenic in these things because, I am also an academic. I wear two hats. And it seems to me that we are emphasizing in this forum, and I repeat, it is my impression that the emphasis there is being put on more technological aspects and very sophisticated technological aspects and I would wonder about the prerequisites or the interests and the aspirations of developing countries. For example, I would like to know whether my Government could be incorporated and think about just how young people could help to disseminate space technology, trying to comply with the Millennium Goals. We are thinking about a resolution which was, after all, adopted unanimously and then also thinking back to the third Global Space Conference which was humanist in character. Just how can we link up space law from the point of view of young people. Young people have a more younger perspective with other branches internationally with which there is an implicit or explicit link, for example, space law relating to international humanitarian law or other forms of law.

It seems to me that for countries like ours, this would be a major contribution and I would now like to know a little more about this in this particular context, without prejudice to our talking about it more subsequently.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Chile.

Any other questions?

Then I would pass to the representative of the SGAC for a response to the question raised by Chile.

Mr. T.E.L. CHENEY (Space Generation Advisory Council): Thank you very much. We are, of course, open to any future projects that anyone may wish to propose and, if the distinguished delegate from Chile would like to discuss working with us further to

address his concerns, we would be more than happy to speak with him at his convenience.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

So with this, distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee so that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space can hold its third meeting.

Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 3, General Exchange of Views. We will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 5, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 6, Matters Relating to (a) the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, and (b) the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit.

We will then adjourn the plenary meeting so the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space can hold its second meeting.

Are there any questions on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

So, finally, I wish to remind delegations that this evening the European Space Policy Institute will host an event, "Big Data and Space". The event will begin at 7.00 p.m. at the ESPI premises and the invitation to this event, including further details on location and speakers, has been circulated in the pigeonholes.

I now invite the Chairman of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space to hold the third meeting of that Working Group.

This meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11.36 a.m.