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**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:**  
**Legal Subcommittee**  
**Fifty-third session**

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889th meeting  
Monday, 31 March 2014, 3.09 p.m.  
Vienna

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*Chair: Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair). Good afternoon distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 889th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 11, “General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 12, “General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space” and agenda item 13, “Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space”.

The Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space will then hold its third meeting.

I would like to remind delegations once again that the Provisional List of Participants was distributed last week and that delegations are kindly requested to provide the Secretariat with written amendments to this list by close of business today.

Distinguished delegates, I now would now like to reopen agenda item 5, which is “Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law” in order for the representative of UNIDROIT to make a statement. Mr. Jose Angelo Estrella Faria, you have the floor.

J. A. Estrella Faria (UNIDROIT). Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. UNIDROIT greatly appreciates the invitation to attend the 53rd session of the Legal Subcommittee and the opportunity to report on the developments that have taken place since the last session of the Subcommittee concerning the Protocol to the Convention on international interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Space Assets — the Space Protocol.

We are pleased to be able to report excellent progress over the past twelve months in respect not only of the Protocol but also of the Convention itself and on its two other protocols on Aircraft Equipment and the Protocol Railway Rolling Stock. The Convention, now with 60 States Parties, and the Aircraft Protocol, continue to attract new accessions and the International Registry for aircraft objects expands exponentially. But implementation of the Rail Protocol has also begun to pick up speed.

The Space Protocol, as we know, was adopted in Berlin on 7 March 2012 and opened for signature at the closing at the Berlin Diplomatic Conference two days later. Four States have already signed it and 10 ratifications or accessions are needed to trigger the entry into force of the Protocol.

The Diplomatic Conference in Berlin invited the governing body of ITU to consider the matter of it becoming the supervisory authority under the Space Protocol. At the same time, the Conference established a Preparatory Commission to act as provisional supervisory authority of the future International Registry. I am pleased to report that the Preparatory Commission has held already two sessions: the first in 6 and 7 May 2013 and the second in 27 to 28 January 2014. The following States have agreed to participate in that work: Brazil, People’s Republic of China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and United States of America. The Preparatory Commission sessions were also attended by representatives of the ITU and a number of other participants, including representatives of the financial and commercial word and satellite operations.

As regards the point of the Supervisory Authority, representatives of the ITU report to Commission that there continues to be interest on the part of the ITU secretariat and the secretary-general for the possibility for ITU to accept the role of the supervisor authority. The Preparatory Commission established two working groups, one was tasked with drafting regulations for the future International Registry for space assets and the other with drafting a request for proposals for the selection of the Registrar.

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The first draft of the Registry regulations was discussed at the second session in January and approved in principle, save for a few points on which some more work is needed, in particular as regards identification criteria for space objects to meet the needs of international registry. As the distinguished delegates may know, the International Registry under the Cape Town Convention is a registry of security interest in equipment covered by the Convention and registration of a secured interest requires the asset to which the secured asset relates to be uniquely identifiable. And this is an issue that is being considered: what criteria can be used for the unique identification of space assets and with that I am happy to report that the satellite operators represented at the meeting had shown considerable willingness to help us with the technical aspects involved.

A strict time-table of future work was agreed upon, with the aim of discussing the finalized version of the Registry regulations by early 2014 at the latest — sorry, the finalized version later this year — still in time for the ITU's Council session and Assembly of Plenipotentiaries in 2014.

Mr. Chairman, it is well known that since the first commercial satellite, private financing of some space activities has soared to impressive heights in volume. By 2011, worldwide space revenues across both public and private sectors collectively totalled \$288 billion, representing a 12% increase over the previous year. Space infrastructure and support industries have expanded 22%. Private financing is now often supplementing public funding and has become an integral part of space policies of some countries. However, private financing requires a favourable legal framework, as we know.

The Cape Town Convention has been a remarkable success in providing a sound and efficient basis for international financing of high-value equipment. As of 31 December 2013, 461,639 registrations had been made in the International Registry for aircraft objects, against 107,741 aircraft objects, including airframes, engines and helicopters, and that, Mr. Chairman, only since the entry into operation of the Registry on 1 March 2006. The number of registrations recorded in 2013 was the highest on record — some 21% ahead of the previous high in 2012. Likewise, it was a record the number of aircraft objects against which registrations were made in 2013, now 28,159.

The level of efficiency and enhanced legal certainty created by the Cape Town system is such that all export credit agencies that participate in the Aircraft Sector Understanding negotiated under the auspices of OECD grant a reduction of up to 10% off the minimum

premium rate if the aircraft operator is based in a country that has ratified the Cape Town Convention.

Mr. Chairman, the main beneficiaries of the Cape Town system have been airlines in developing countries and smaller carriers with a medium to lower credit rating. As such, the Protocol both helps the renewal of aircraft fleet and also to stimulate competition in the aviation sector. Nothing suggests that similar benefits may not flow from the Space Protocol. To the contrary, the active participation of developing countries throughout the negotiation of the Protocol clearly indicates the belief of their governments in the positive prospects offered by the Space Protocol.

More and more countries look to private investment to promote certain space activities, within the framework of their international obligations and national policies. The Space Protocol, Mr. Chairman, offers a new and efficient tool to assist their private sector — often not yet sufficiently mature to secure the required level of financing solely on the basis of their balance sheets.

Mr. Chairman, the successful completion of Space Protocol owes a great deal to the continued support provided by COPUOS and the Legal Subcommittee to our efforts to reach out to the broad membership of the UN, in particular the developing world, and I should like to place on record our sincere gratitude of my Organization and its member to the Legal Subcommittee and its parent body. We look forward to continuing to work closely with UN/COPUOS members in the process of securing early implementation of the Space Protocol and wishes the Subcommittee every success in its deliberations. Thank you very much.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative of UNIDROIT for his statement and we have now concluded agenda item 5, "Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law".

Distinguished delegates, I would like now to begin our consideration of item 11 on our agenda, which is "General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee".

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic, Ms. Martina Smuclerova.

**Ms. M. Smuclerova** (Czech Republic) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Czech Republic, also on behalf of Canada and Germany,

would like to bring to your kind attention a document entitled “Compendium on Space Debris Mitigation Standards Adopted by States and International Organizations”. It has been made available to the Legal Subcommittee in the conference room paper CRP.15. The Compendium is a reference document on the mechanisms adopted by States and international organizations to implement space debris mitigation measures. The initiative comes at a time where there is a growing awareness that the implementation of space debris mitigation measures for space activities is an indispensable condition for preserving the future usability of outer space. Limiting the proliferation of orbital debris is a significant means for mitigating the risks posed by space debris to human activities in outer space.

It is in this context that, as of October 2013, Canada and the Czech Republic — who were later joined by Germany — have taken the initiative to compile an overview on the status quo of space debris mitigation standards. The Compendium project has received editorial support of the European Space Agency. The result of this effort is a comprehensive collection of existing national and international mechanisms on space debris mitigation. Part 1 of the Compendium contains a list of States’ profiles and Part 2 presents international mechanisms, both ordered alphabetically by their English names. Each profile focuses on debris mitigation standards developed and implemented by the respective State or international organization. It is structured according to the following categories: description, applicability and relation to other national or international mechanisms. In addition, the profiles are completed by a web page reference to the source of the mechanism, where available. The structured format of the Compendium shall facilitate the accessibility and understanding of the existing mechanisms.

The Czech Republic, Canada and Germany regard the “Compendium on Space Debris Mitigation Standards Adopted by States and International Organizations” as an important contribution to the systematic information exchange on space debris mitigation. Mutual information exchange on legal mechanisms for space debris mitigation remains a highly significant topic for the Legal Subcommittee. The compilation of existing norms and knowledge of current mechanisms is fundamental to moving forward globally on this file and fully corresponds to the priorities under the present agenda item. In providing an overview on the current normative framework of space debris mitigation measures, the Compendium can be a reference for the national legislator wishing to enact or develop similar standards as well as an

underlying source for the consideration of space debris mitigation in general.

The Compendium initiative is in line with the proposals discussed in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. Without prejudice to the finalization of the Working Group’s report, we would like to refer to section IV “Recommended topics for future consideration” of the draft report that directly addresses the compilation of measures, practices, standards and other elements conducive to the safe conduct of space activities which should be openly accessible.

The Czech Republic, Canada and Germany express their gratitude to the States and international organizations that have contributed to the Compendium and kindly invite other Member States and international organizations to consider providing information on their space debris mitigation mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman, in light of the above considerations and in view of the Compendium’s value as an important reference document, the Czech Republic, Canada and Germany would like to propose the publication of the “Compendium on Space Debris Mitigation Standards Adopted by States and International Organizations” on a dedicated page on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and would kindly ask the Secretariat to thereafter maintain the Compendium as an online document. In this way, all interested actors will be able to benefit from having access to a comprehensive and structured set of current instruments and measures on space debris mitigation. The Czech Republic, Canada and Germany will continue their work on the Compendium until the 57th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in June and welcome any contributions or updates from States or international organizations for integration into the document. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, thank you for your attention.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from the Czech Republic for her statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate from Canada, Mr. Bruno Legendre. You have the floor.

**Mr. Legendre** (Canada) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I am sure my predecessor already did this on behalf of Canada, but allow me to extend to you my own personal congratulations for being elected as Chairman of this Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, over the last decade, space debris has become a major concern in relation to access to and use of outer space and the protection of space assets. International collaboration, discussions and exchange of information are increasingly essential to efficiently address this problem globally.

For several years now, UN COPUOS has provided an efficient forum to pursue dialogue among space actors on this topic both within this Subcommittee and within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We collectively have taken note of the work done outside the United Nations, namely within the Inter-Agency Debris Committee, also known as IADC, and the International Organization for Standardization, also known as ISO, and encouraged continued exchange of information on measures designed to mitigate space debris.

Mr. Chairman, Canada supports the development of international non-binding principles and guidelines to address space debris mitigation and to promote the active removal of space debris. In that sense, Canada has supported the adoption of the UN COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines in 2007. Canada continues to believe that a non-binding approach can be effective and benefit all nations if implemented domestically through policy, regulations and standards. Since the adoption of guidelines by the IADC in 2002 and the ISO Standard, progress has been accomplished in the design, construction, operation and de-orbiting of space objects.

Canada hopes that the Compendium on Space Debris circulated at this session will help further the implementation of the 2007 UN Debris Mitigation Guidelines. Canada is pleased by the results that were achieved in less than one year jointly with the Czech Republic and Germany. We encourage States that have not had yet an opportunity yet to provide their input and, if possible, to do so over the coming months so that a picture as exact as possible of the current implementation profile of the 2007 guidelines be presented at the COPUOS June session.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is of the view that the 2007 UN Debris Mitigation Guidelines, together with the 2002 IADC guidelines and the ISO standard, which are of a more programmatic and technical nature, constitute a formidable resource that will prevent, in the long run, further exacerbating the current debris situation in both the low-Earth orbits where the problem is more crucial and urgent, and in the geosynchronous orbit.

Mr. Chairman, let me refer to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as

explained last week by the Chair of the working group, the mandate of this working group aims at creating a set of voluntary guidelines that will, inter alia, collectively reduce the risk posed to space operations with a view to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space. Canada notes that the proposed guidelines drafted by the expert group B on space debris, space operations and tools to support collaborative space situational awareness, cover all major aspects of space debris activities. While the guidelines themselves had been made available in draft form, the report of expert group B will provide the background and analysis to the development of these draft guidelines. The report should become available at the June session of the Committee and Canada encourages all member States, but in particular delegates to the Legal Subcommittee, to take note of the report. The guidelines proposed by expert group B will be part of the broader voluntary guidelines that the working group aims to achieve and hopefully get approved through 2014.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to reiterate the importance of international collaboration and dialogue among space actors to identify areas of concern and advance solutions to the space debris issues. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Canada for his statement. Next on my list is Mr. Philipp Wennholz, representative of Germany. You have the floor.

**Mr. P. Wennholz** (Germany) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Germany welcomes the discussion of legal mechanisms for space debris mitigation and also the consideration of the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under the present agenda item. We consider space debris as a serious problem and regard the consideration of legal questions relating to the debris problem in the Legal Subcommittee as necessary for effectively dealing with space debris. It is equally important to consider the problem also in regard to its scientific and technical aspects. We therefore very much welcome the presentation on the progress achieved by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee by Mr. Peter Martinez, the chair of the working group. Germany would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Martinez for having brought to the attention of the Legal Subcommittee the interim results of the working group.

There is consensus today that an ongoing proliferation of space debris will result in an uncontrolled growth of the debris population. Unless

appropriate measures are adopted that would guarantee a sustainable use of outer space, the use of certain orbits will be seriously impeded in the long-term perspective, if not rendered completely impossible. In order to achieve sustainability, space debris mitigation practices need to be effectively implemented by all States and individual high-risk debris objects need to be actively removed from orbit. The combination of mitigation and remediation represents the appropriate and necessary means for achieving sustainability in the use of outer space. Germany implements space debris mitigation measures, including the COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, for its national space projects and develops space debris remediation technology.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the discussion in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the long-term sustainability included a number of topics for future consideration, among them also those relevant to space debris. These are, inter alia, the normative development of standards for the avoidance of harmful contamination and legal questions arising with regard to the active removal of space debris. Without prejudice to the finalization of the Working Group's report, Germany believes that both of these topics should be considered by the Legal Subcommittee as soon as possible. In particular, the active removal of debris requires the clarification of certain legal questions. This pertains especially to instances in which the removing State and the State that has jurisdiction and control over the object to be removed are not the same. The establishment of legal certainty is a condition for the effective conduct of debris removal missions.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, to conclude, we would like to thank the Czech Republic for the presentation of the Space Debris Compendium. Germany has worked together with the Czech Republic and Canada on the preparation of the Compendium over the last months and we received editorial support from the European Space Agency (ESA). We express our gratitude to our partners and to all contributors for the excellent cooperation in this initiative. Germany kindly invites other delegations to consider supporting the Compendium with further contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative of Germany. Next on my list is the distinguished representative of the United States, Mr. Brian Israel. You have the floor.

**Mr. B. Israel** (United States of America) Thank you Mr. Chairman. The United States is pleased that the Legal Subcommittee is continuing to exchange information regarding mechanisms for space debris

mitigation. The United States has long recognized the importance of managing the creation and effects of space debris, and those U.S. Government departments and agencies that participate in, and license, outer space activities have a robust framework of statutes, regulations and internal policies that take into account space debris mitigation from the design stage of a satellite or space launch system to its end-of-life disposal. We provided a detailed overview of U.S. mechanisms during the 49th session of the Legal Subcommittee, and presented an update during the last session.

We are also pleased to have contributed a description of the complex set of the laws, regulations, and policies the United States uses to implement space debris mitigation to the Compendium of Space Debris Mitigation Standards compiled by Canada, the Czech Republic, and the German Aerospace Center, which was circulated as Addendum 1 to Conference Room Paper 15.

Mr. Chairman, please allow me to briefly summarize the approach of the United States, and I will refer interested delegates to the Compendium for greater detail. Central to the debris mitigation efforts in U.S. Government missions are the United States Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, which many will recall served as the basis for the space debris mitigation guidelines developed and adopted by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) in 2002, and the COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines approved by the General Assembly in 2007. The 2010 U.S. National Space Policy directs U.S. Government departments and agencies to continue to follow the United States Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, consistent with mission requirements and cost effectiveness, in the procurement and operation of spacecraft, launch services, and the conduct of tests and experiments in space. Notably, the National Space Policy requires that the head of the sponsoring department or agency approve any exceptions to the U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, and notify the Secretary of State. NASA, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration all carry out this guidance pursuant to applicable laws. In addition, those agencies that license commercial satellites have requirements in their licensing procedures that are intended to limit the creation and impact of space debris, and these requirements are often complementary. The Federal Aviation Administration licenses commercial launch and re-entry under the Commercial Space Launch Act, and addresses debris mitigation through its regulations and licensing

procedures. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the 2013 United States National Space Transportation Policy directs the Secretary of Transportation to address orbital debris mitigation practices for U.S.-licensed commercial launches through its licensing procedures.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer some observations about why we and others invest so much in debris mitigation measures. The United States is proud of its pioneering role and leadership in orbital debris mitigation. In 1995, NASA became the first space agency in the world to issue a comprehensive set of orbital debris mitigation guidelines. NASA is a founding member of the IADC and has played a leading role in discussions of space debris mitigation in the IADC, and in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS since the topic became a standing agenda item in 1994. In the IADC, NASA continues to play a lead role in researching and developing relevant technical standards — this work will continue to inform the STSC so that the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines can be updated as appropriate.

We are encouraged that a number of States and Intergovernmental Organizations have developed debris guidelines, and believe that the implementation by even more spacecraft operators is vital to the safety and long-term sustainability of space flight.

But let me explain why the United States takes these measures and makes these investments in debris mitigation. We do not do so out of a sense that they are legally required. Rather, we do so because of our strong interest in the safety and long-term sustainability of space activities, and our judgement that these practices represent sound approaches to debris mitigation. This distinction is important because we sometimes hear the view expressed that the solution to the debris challenge is to transform technical debris mitigation guidelines into international legal obligations. Based on our experience, we believe that States are motivated first and foremost by enlightened self-interest in the safety and sustainability of space activities. We do not believe that the force of legal obligation is necessary for States to take measures to mitigate debris.

As delegations are no doubt aware, approaches to mitigating debris are linked to evolving technologies. As technologies change so do the available methods for debris mitigation, as well as the cost-benefit trade-offs of doing so. Given the evolving technical aspects of debris mitigation, and the practical, economic reality that existing platforms cannot be replaced overnight, we do not see the wisdom in ossifying debris mitigation standards into international law at this time.

Safety and sustainability in space are of paramount importance for the United States, and we will continue to wholeheartedly support international cooperation to further debris mitigation technology and techniques.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me describe one more US legal mechanism relating to space debris mitigation. The Department of Defense is authorized by statute to share space situational awareness information and services with governmental, intergovernmental and commercial entities to improve the safety and sustainability for space flight. SSA services are critical to avoiding collisions in outer space that can degrade the space environment for all States. To date, the United States has concluded agreements to facilitate the provision of SSA information and services with five Governments and 41 commercial entities and negotiations with additional governments and commercial entities are under way. We encourage all space-faring nations to explore entering into an SSA-sharing agreement with the United States so that we can continue to improve the safety and sustainability of space flight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and we look forward to continued discussions on this issue.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from United States for his statement. Next on my list is the representative of ESA, Mr. Marco Ferrazzani. You have the floor.

**Mr. M. Ferrazzani** (European Space Agency) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. As a space agency, we congratulate and thank very much the initiative taken by Canada, the Czech Republic and Germany to prepare the Compendium to which we gave just a modest contribution on editorial work. It is important for us for us to have this document. It is for us an essential contribution to good knowledge and understanding of existing standards along with its annual updates — we are looking forward to them. It also enhances the awareness that technical standards are necessary for better operational planning of space operations, for an agency like ours. And also, it is — we believe it is a useful tool to prepare under long-term planning of space programmes space operations — that is what we also do — and we find it a very useful reference tool when we discuss with other space agency role and we prepare common space programmes and international cooperation.

Also Mr. Chairman, we found it a very useful tool that might be used in the future also to respond in an objective and legitimate way to questions that Sometimes are addressed to us and media and politicians who want to know about space debris and

mitigation — how we handle that point. And this is a very useful tool.

And finally Mr. Chairman, ESA, as a founding member of EADC, will thus continue to develop an follow practices which are useful for space debris mitigation and the news is that we will soon issue the ESA updated policy on space debris mitigation which will be part of the update of the Compendium.

So, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the chance to have this statement for us.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative of ESA for his statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak?

I see the Netherlands.

**Mr. Van Den Oosterkamp** (Netherlands) Thank you Chair. I would like to follow most of ... the delegation of Canada and also Germany by saying that space debris is a serious problem for the international community and we have to address that problem globally and for that reason the Netherlands is for the international arrangement for space debris. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Czech Republic and Canada, notably, for the Compendium that has been made and we also made a contribution to that.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from the Netherlands for his statement.

Any other delegation wishing to speak? Mexico.

**Ms. R. M. Ramirez** (Mexico, interpretation from Spanish) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as you know, these days we currently and recurrently deal with the need to promote sustainability and security for the benefit for all human kind. From the beginning of time and with the passage of the years, human kind did not pay sufficient attention to taking care of the environment in which it existed. Everything proceeding in routine fashion. Temperatures went down in winter rose in the summer, colours changed and in the autumn, then the industrial revolution brought many benefits to humans — we know that — but also brought the pollution of the rivers and of the soil. A slow degradation of the environment. Dangerous changes to the environment in which we live. Natural phenomena remain unheeded in our daily activities but certainly a time comes when we can no longer afford to disregard what is happening around us. Out of space as well has lived through major negative processes and deterioration due to human activities. Today, it is becoming harder and harder to ignore such phenomena as space debris, which increasingly affects the safety and sustainability of space activities in the

long term. Although Mexico is an emerging country, it is very familiar with these issues. We know about the danger of saturation of the geostationary orbit through debris generated by human activities. To prevent the further deterioration of outer space environment, exploration and use of outer space must be pursued with greater care. The delegation of Mexico suggests to this Subcommittee that all States take into account space debris mitigation guidelines documents/49 and the document prepared by the Czech Republic and Canada, with the support of the German Space Agency in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have much to add to this — to what was already said by the Czech Republic, Canada, the Netherlands, the United States and Germany. I can just join this recommendation, that even though these are non-binding provisions, they must be taken on board by States. The very nature, the very environment in which we live requires it. To save the planet and to ensure the long-term sustainability of space activities. Thank you very much.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Mexico for her statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak?

I see Chile. You have the floor.

**Ms. T. Alvarez** (Chile, interpretation from Spanish) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Very briefly. I just wanted to add my voice by what was said by those who spoke before me and commend the Czech Republic, the German Space Agency and Canada for the initiative regarding space debris in which our country plans to participate, making our own modest contribution to space debris mitigation. So, mostly commend and congratulate the Czech Republic and thank them for their efforts.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Chile for her statement.

Any other delegation wishing to speak?

We will have this item again on the agenda tomorrow morning as well as in the afternoon, but maybe we can already at this stage draw a kind of conclusion on the presentation by the Czech Republic together with Canada and Germany with regard to the Compendium of Space Debris Mitigation adopted by States and international organizations, which you have before you in conference room paper, together with one addendum. Now, this has been ... this Compendium has been presented. We have heard a number of positive additional inputs to it and, in fact, the Czech delegation also provided a potential way forward on how to handle this Compendium and we sat

down and prepared a potential way forward, in fact, which responds to what the Czech delegation just has outlined in view of transferring the Compendium to the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs. Now, I will read out 3 small paragraphs, which we think could be the basis for such a decision and I read them out and then seek your agreement on this proposal for a way forward.

Now, the first paragraph would read: “The Subcommittee requests the 3 delegations, which are the Czech Republic, Canada and Germany, to continue their work on the Compendium with a view of increasing the number of States and international organizations included in the document and that the Compendium in thereafter handed over to the Secretariat before the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in June, so that the document is made available to that session of the Committee”. — this would be the first paragraph.

The second paragraph would read: “The Subcommittee requests the Secretariat to thereafter maintain the Compendium on a dedicated page of its website”. — this is then it is implemented by UNOOSA.

And the third paragraph would read: “And that the Subcommittee further requests the Secretariat to invite UN COPUOS member States and international intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee to provide or update the information on legislation or any standards adopted with regard to space debris mitigation using the template provided to that effect. The same invitation would be sent to all other member States of the United Nations encouraging those States with such regulations or standards to contribute to the Compendium. The updated Compendium will be made available to the Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session in 2015. — So, this would be the 3 paragraphs which would outline the transfer of the initiative from the 3 member States to UN OOSA for the benefit of an even broader and more comprehensive availability through the UN OOSA website.

Is this proposal acceptable to the member States? Are there any objections or further requests for clarification?

*I see none.*

It is decided ... and we take that up in the report of the Subcommittee. But before doing so, I have the request for the floor from Mexico.

**Ms. R. M. Ramirez** (Mexico, interpretation from Spanish) I apologize Mr. Chairman. It is a question. It

has to do with language or form. We are talking about Compendium, but in translation I heard “Convenio”, like a “Convention”. So, just to clarify for the Spanish speakers ... we are talking about “Compendium” not “Convention”, right? Thank you.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Mexico for the request for clarification and I am pleased to clarify this is certainly not a Convention but a Compendium, indeed.

*Okay. I think it is decided.*

And you will find that language then in the draft report which we are going to adopt at the end of this week.

As I indicated, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 11, which has additional and further aspects, as you have also heard from the presentations and interventions of the member States, tomorrow morning.

I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 12, “General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space”.

I have a look in my list but this list is so far empty.

Yes, we have one request for the floor and this is France, Mr. Philippe Clerc.

**Mr. P. Clerc** (France, interpretation from French) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, colleagues, the French delegation believes that this new agenda item is essential. It seems to me that a review of the way various legal instruments are applied by countries is key to what the Subcommittee is going to do in the years to come. With regard to binding instruments, and these are the four United Nations Space Treaties, they are reviewed under agenda item 8 where we look the way States translate their obligations under the treaties into their national legislation. This new item, and we’ll thank the Japanese delegation for having launched it, allows it to go further and analyse the way in which non-binding instruments are taken on board by States.

Talking about France, a certain number of non-binding instruments are already taken into account by our country. The Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines are an example of such a non-binding instrument, whose traditions have been made mandatory in our national legislation. Technical national regulation taken into account in the law on space activities contains a number of provisions with regard to limiting space debris. Our regulatory framework does not expressly

refer to the COPUOS guidelines, it is totally consistent with these guidelines. France has thus made it ultimately mandatory for national operators to apply provisions first contained in a non-binding instrument developed by the UN. Regarding other non-binding instruments, France supports their application through practice, without inscribing national legislation. I am thinking in particular, with regard to remote sensing principles adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 421/65 of December 3rd, 1986, specifically with regard to the use of civilian data, principles on the use of nuclear power sources on outer space adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 47/68 of December 14, 1992 and resolution 62/101 of 17 December 2007, containing recommendations to strengthen States' practice with regard to the registration of space objects. Obviously, this is just a first over view of what France is doing in terms of implementing UN non-binding instruments. My delegation will further elaborate this information in its written contribution based on the exhaustive questionnaire developed by our Japanese partners, whom we'll thank once again. Thank you.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from France for his statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak under this agenda item?

I see the Russian Federation. You have the floor.

**Mr. V. Gudnov** (Russian Federation, interpretation from Russian) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, thank you very much for this opportunity to take the floor.

The Russian Federation also supports the implementation of legally non-binding regulatory mechanisms, particularly with regard to space debris mitigation. We believe this would benefit all States. Having said that, I would like note that legally non-binding mechanisms are effective only in those cases where they serve the interests of States that take them on board or create political or economic liability those countries that might violate such provisions.

Why do we say that? We are committed to making sure that space activities remain safe, secured and sustainable in the long term, that we protect the environment and by protecting the outer space environment, we mean not only reducing space debris but creating political and economic foundations for safe and sustainable space activities. A number of States have noted the need to give particular attention to preventing the arms race in outer space, to preventing the deployment of any types of armaments in outer space and when we talk about non-binding mechanisms, particularly United Nations-generated

non-binding mechanisms, I have to refer our initiative on the non-deployment of any type of weapons in outer space — it is a declarative initiative. It is the expression of a country's political will, of a country's intent to keep outer space free of any types of armaments. This is not mandatory — it is not made mandatory by the existing conventions or agreements — it is a legal lacunae and something that we need to continue discussion, both in the Legal Subcommittee — because it goes to the definition of specific terms and activities that would be acceptable to all States. We intend to continue promoting this initiative. We believe if the majority of countries voice themselves ready not to take steps to deploy any types of weapons in outer space, this would create an environment where a further step could be taken towards safe, secured and sustainable space activities in the long term. We hope that the Legal Subcommittee and other member States will support us. We are thankful to the countries that have supported us already, from various continents. We have met with great understanding of the initiative and the thinking behind it. We would like this to be on the agenda of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We must look for definitions that would be acceptable to most member States and these definitions could perhaps be considered in the Legal Subcommittee.

As I already said, this is one type of legally non-binding mechanism, voluntary statements or declarations by countries, of this sort, which are — however, very important — because if they are violated, they will carry a toll of political and other consequences for the State. So, in that regard, they could be viewed as binding in a way. Thank you very much.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from the Russian Federation for his statement. Next on my list is China.

**Mr. Z. Shang** (China, interpretation from Chinese) Mr. Chairman, the Chinese delegation is pleased to participate in the deliberation of this agenda item, which is being considered for the first time at the Legal Subcommittee. We believe that conclusion of non-legally binding instruments on outer space under the framework of the United Nations will usefully complement the existing legal system of space law, representing an effort of the international community in regulating outer space activities and in promoting the legal construction work in relation to outer space, and will thus be conducive to the harmonious, inclusive, and long-term sustainable development of outer space activities in accordance with law.

Mr. Chairman, the strength of the so-called “soft law” rules lies in its non-mandatory nature, which not

only provides the parties with greater flexibility in the process of drafting and amending the rules, but also allows parties room of arrangement in the implementation phase in accordance with domestic laws. China believes that discussion should be focused on exchanges of information and experience by parties on space “soft law” rules, and should avoid negative impact on the will of countries in concluding and implementing “soft law” rules. In this regard, we have taken note that a lot of work has already been done at the COPUOS and its two Subcommittees on the area of information exchange of non-legally binding instruments under the UN framework. Currently, there are a few agenda items that are directly related to this issue. In addition, the work by the Czech Republic, Germany and Canada on developing a Compendium on Space Debris Mitigation Standards adopted by States and International Organizations is a big contribution to the implementation and information exchange on soft law. We appreciate this effort.

Mr. Chairman, at the 56th session of COPUOS last year, consensus was reached on the scope and working method of this item, which includes that discussions should be limited to non-binding outer space instruments within the framework of the United Nations — only information exchange is allowed — and that no working group is to be set up. We have noticed that paragraph 4 of document A/AC.105/L.288 proposed that “member States should be encouraged to exchange their views and experience in relation to the objective and scope of the proposed agenda item”. We hope that all parties can work in partnership to promote the discussion under this agenda item on the basis of the above-mentioned consensus. Any change of relevant working method shall require consent and support of member States.

Mr. Chairman, China is of the view that preparation and implementation of non-legally binding instruments on outer space should be carried out on the basis of existing UN outer space treaties, principles and declarations, should take fully into account the need and interest of the developing countries, should not exceed countries’ current development capacity of space technologies and the level of management of space activities, and should not seek to introduce standards or requirements that are hard to implement, so as to avoid any unnecessary impediments on countries’ outer space activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from China his statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to speak under the agenda item?

*I see none.*

We will conclude our deliberations under this agenda item tomorrow morning.

At that time, or at the latest, by the end of the week, we have to find an understanding of how to continue with this agenda item.

It has been established as single issue/discussion item, which means and requires consensus on any potential further procedure and continuation of that item. From what I heard, I understand there are a number of options of how to continue with this item.

The first option, of course, is to take the mandate literally — since it is a single issue — for one year; to stop deliberations under this item and not having it on the agenda next year. On the other hand, we have heard a proposal to even establish a multiyear workplan, possibly with an associated working group on that item. And there are certainly a number of options in between, maybe continuing for one more year; maybe integrating it in another proposal for restructuring the agenda; integrating it into an existing working group; integrating it in any other existing other agenda item. So, there are a number of options — they are wide ranging from stopping to really going in a full-fledged manner. I would invite you to think about the further procedure on that item, because as I said, we will conclude our deliberations on that item tomorrow morning and then, when we adopt our report and adopt the draft agenda for next year, we have to find a decision on how to proceed with this item. So, this is food for thought and I hope tomorrow at our session we can identify a way forward and have a guidance on how to reflect that in the further procedure.

Now, as I said, we will continue and conclude our considerations of agenda item 12, “General exchange of information on non-legally binding UN instruments on outer space” tomorrow morning.

Distinguished delegates, I would like now to continue our consideration of agenda item 13, “Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space”.

I have so far 2 speaker on my list and the first speaker is the distinguished representative from Japan, Mr. Kazushi Kobata. You have the floor.

**Mr. K. Kobata** (Japan) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Government of Japan, it is my pleasure to address the 53rd session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. In our view, this agenda item is of considerable importance and serves as an impetus to

facilitate the discussions of the LSC. Japan is engaged in a number of international collaboration efforts for the exploration and the use of outer space on a bilateral and multilateral basis. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of these multilateral space alliances and their successful operations.

To begin, the International Space Station (ISS) programme is an example of the most leading multilateral cooperation efforts between the US, Russia, Europe, Canada and Japan. Japan has made several contributions to the ISS programme by developing and operating the Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” and the H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV). It should be noted that the ISS programme is undertaken based on an intergovernmental agreement signed in 1998 and several bilateral memorandums of understanding (MOUs) under the IGA.

IGA provides a long-term international cooperative framework among its partners, on the basis of genuine partnership in the detailed design, development, operation, and utilization of the ISS for peaceful purposes and in accordance with international law, while MOU specifies its management structure to ensure effective planning and coordination as well as the roles and responsibilities of each Partner.

Under the IGA and MOU, each partner has corresponding utilization rights, responsibilities over the operation of the elements, jurisdiction and control over the elements and the personnel of each partner, and coordinates important issues using appropriate mechanisms such as the Multilateral Coordination Board (MCB). We would like to emphasize that the success of this very complicated programme both in the technical and administrative level for the past 15 years is owed to its solid legal foundation under the IGA and MOU, and could thus serve as one of the most successful models of international mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to now introduce some examples of multilateral cooperation efforts that do not have any specific legal binding agreements. The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a voluntary government-level framework established in 2005 for integrating space-based, air-borne, oceanic and terrestrial Earth observations and information systems through international cooperation, in order to develop a comprehensive and sustainable global Earth observation system of systems (GEOSS) over the next 10 years. In order for users and policymakers to address the environmental problems, GEOSS aims to provide and produce Earth observation data and related information in social benefit areas. GEO members consist of 90 countries, the European Commission (EC), and 77 international institutions or agencies related to Earth observation. Since the beginning,

Japan has actively participated in the efforts of GEO as a member of the Executive Committee and contributed to the establishment of GEOSS by promoting the GEOSS 10-year Implementation Plan.

Mr. Chairman, Japan supports the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), established in 1993, to enhance space activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Space agencies, governmental bodies and international organizations, such as the United Nations, as well as companies, universities and research institutes from over 30 regional participants take part in APRSAF — the largest space-related conference in the Asia-Pacific region. In view of the diversity of needs in the Asia-Pacific region for space utilization and developments, APRSAF provides a flexible framework rather than legally-bound agreements. This open framework enables various entities to participate in APRSAF.

Moreover, APRSAF establishes international projects to cope with issues in the Asia-Pacific region and implement concrete actions, such as: Sentinel Asia for disaster management; Space Applications for Environment or “SAFE”; Climate R3 to monitor climate change; and Kibo-ABC to promote Kibo utilization in Asian countries. APRSAF welcomes the continued participation of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to aid solving many specific issues together.

Mr. Chairman, space-based technology for sustainable development has become a central issue recently in COPUOS, and we believe COPUOS is the most appropriate forum to promote international cooperation for sustainable development. However we also believe that space agencies should seek to create a new type of partnership with various entities that rest outside the space related community — entities that have undertaken development assistance for developing countries.

In Japan, for example, JAXA and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) have formed a close and complementary relationship facilitated by regular meetings and of working groups. During their meetings they consult with each other on ongoing and potential cooperation efforts that can cope with developing issues such as climate change, forestry, water resource, disaster, agriculture and mapping by using Japanese satellite data. JICA is the world’s largest integrated Official Development Assistance implementation agency, and has gained much insight, experience and networks all over the world. Therefore, in some cases, JAXA can provide their specialties through JICA or its contractors to local entities in developing countries by using the ODA scheme. In this regard, JAXA also promotes the effective cooperation with the United Nations Commission for Asia and

Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asia Development Bank (ADB).

We believe that the international cooperation mechanisms between the space related community and the development assistance community should be further enhanced in many regions and countries so that COPUOS can effectively contribute to the process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to fully support the work of Prof. Setsuko Aoki, the Chair of the Working Group of this agenda. We would like to highly appreciate for her significant contributions to propose the working approach and prepare a thoughtful questionnaire, which will help to consider the categorization of cooperation mechanisms. We would like to provide relevant information under the questionnaire until the next session, and continue to contribute to this agenda item.

Finally, we are pleased to host a seminar entitled “International mechanisms for cooperation in space exploration: a discussion of current and future mechanisms” last Friday. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Canada and United States of America for co-organizing this seminar and to all delegations for your participation. Thank you for your kind attention.

**Mr. K. Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Japan his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Italy, Ms. Nicoletta Bini.

**Ms. N. Bini** (Italy) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Italy welcomes the new agenda item under the work plan “Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space”. It aims at surveying those mechanisms currently in place among States and International Organizations relevant to the international cooperation in the space sector.

Space activities bear a self-evident international hallmark in their character and nature. International cooperation at various levels may represent a necessary basis to gather the technical and financial resources needed to implement major space efforts, as well as to share results and services stemming from the use of space technologies. One clear example is the International Space Station that can be considered as the most ambitious international space cooperation programme developed so far.

International cooperation mechanisms might take various forms of intergovernmental, interagency,

bilateral and multilateral instruments. In turn, each of them may bring to different levels of commitment. In some specific cases States decided to establish space international organizations. They represent an instrument of systematic cooperation, showing the importance of pooling and sharing resources in order to implement the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. This has been the case for the international telecommunications organizations, such as the first one, INTELSAT, followed by INMARSAT and EUTELSAT. Mechanisms of cooperation in this field have further evolved towards new structures, including IGOs, intergovernmental organizations and the respective associated national law companies. At the European level, another important example is represented by the European Space Agency, celebrating this year its fifty anniversary of successful cooperation in space. ESA itself is a subject of public international law and a major space cooperation actor on the world stage.

My delegation would also like to mention the relevance of the European Union as a new player in the space sector. EU is already implementing mechanisms of international cooperation in the European region, within the Framework agreement with ESA, promoting space application-oriented initiatives like Galileo and Copernicus, as well as programmes devoted to the protection of space infrastructures, such as the Space Surveillance and Tracking system. EU is also promoting space dialogues with several international partners and coordinating the European efforts in the negotiations of the International Code of Conduct of Space activities.

Within the multilateral framework, it is worth to mention some international initiatives on specific aspects, such as GEO (Group on Earth Observation) and CEOS (Committee on Earth Observation Satellites). These initiatives ensure international exchange of information on national strategies and programmes, and promote international coordination on civil space-based Earth observation activities. Moreover, they facilitate and encourage the exchange of data in order to provide solutions to global issues and challenges, like climate change and natural disaster management.

Another commendable forum of international consultation is the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), established in 2005 under the auspices of the United Nations to promote voluntary cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing, and to provide value-added services. Both initiatives, strongly supported by Italy, were conceived for the purpose of putting together

different space actors, maximizing synergies, fostering the information sharing, and promoting the introduction and use of space applications and services also in developing countries.

Coming to the space exploration, I would like to emphasize the activities conducted by the International Space Exploration Coordination Group as a clear example of the importance of international consultations in preparing and sharing possible new strategies and workplans for future space exploration programmes.

Finally, let me mention the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, an initiative well known by this Subcommittee, considering the substantive effort provided for the preparation of the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines adopted by the UN General Assembly with resolution in 2007.

Looking at the future, we share the view that international cooperation will continue to be a necessary basis to deal with new challenges, such as the long-term sustainability of space activities.

Mr. Chairman, Italy is committed to the principle, expressed in article III of Outer Space Treaty, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, promoting international cooperation and understanding, as reaffirmed in the various set of principles and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

The international cooperation in the space sector — as we have already touched upon — entails initiatives that are taken both at the governmental and at the agency level. The Italian Space Agency (ASI), consistent with its statute, entered into force in 2011, under the strategies and coordination with the relevant governmental authorities, develops, manages and coordinates national projects and the Italian participation to European and international programmes, and may enter into bilateral and multilateral agreements with other national or international space entities.

An important category of bilateral governmental instruments participated in by Italy is the one of framework agreements for the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. They display a political high-level will to cooperate, defining areas of common interests to the parties. These agreements often designate the Italian Space Agency as the Implementing Agency and refer to separating implementing agreements to carry out specific cooperative projects. In some cases, framework agreements set the legal regime for future cooperation and may require the accomplishment of national legislative procedures before their entry into force.

There is a number of good examples of intergovernmental agreements needed to rule the development of specific space programmes, such as the one relevant to an Earth Observation System as it was foreseen by Italy and France in 2001, or specific cooperation activities, such as the bilateral agreement between the Government of Kenya and the Government of Italy for the management of the San Marco base located in Malindi. We may also mention the numerous exchange of diplomatic notes between Italy and USA to provide the entry into force of memorandums of understanding concluded between ASI and NASA to develop and undertake several scientific missions. ASI is currently party to approximately sixty among various agreements, arrangements, declarations and protocols, signed with international partners expressing the will to cooperate or implement specific space projects. Among the others, ASI has entered into legal instruments covering, as an example:

- Joint studies and feasibility projects in several sectors, representing a starting point for possible future collaborations; the development of scientific instruments, as it is the case of multilateral instrument agreements concluded in the framework of the ESA scientific missions, such as, ExoMars, BepiColombo, Solar Orbiter and GAIA, whose far reaching technological and scientific objectives require coordination of national research institutions and the collaboration of ESA with its international partners;
- The development and launch of a satellite system, as it was the case of the cooperation between ASI and CNES, within an Italian and French space telecommunication dual programme, named ATHENA-FIDUS, that was successfully launched on February 6, 2014 from the Kourou base in Guyana — in French Guyana;
- Collaborations in the Earth Observation field entailing the use of the Italian space observation system COSMO-SkyMed, as was the agreement with Argentinian CONAE in the SIASGE programme and with JAXA, mainly devoted to disaster management activities.

Mr Chairman, Italy is keen to actively participate to the discussion under this new agenda item and take this opportunity to express to Professor Satsuko Aoki, the best wishes for a fruitful session of the related working group under her valuable chairmanship. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. N. Bini** (Italy) I thank Ms. Bini, representing Italy.

Italy was last on my list. Are there any other delegations wishing to speak?

*I see none.*

We will therefore continue and hopefully suspend our considerations on agenda item 13, "Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space", tomorrow morning, pending discussions in the Working Group on that item.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee, so that the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation can hold its third meeting. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning.

We will meet promptly at 10 a.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 11, "General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee". We will also continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 12, "General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space" and continue and hopefully suspend our consideration of agenda item 13, "Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space" pending discussions in the Working Group on that item. We will also continue our discussion agenda item 14, "Proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee".

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

*I see none.*

Finally, I would like to inform delegations that the United States delegation is holding a reception in the coffee corner area outside Board Room D on the 4th floor from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. tomorrow evening, Tuesday 1 April.

*The meeting is adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.*