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

Script

687th Meeting
Thursday, 19 June 2014, 10.00 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. A. Oussedik (Algeria)

The meeting was called to order at 10.16 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 687th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Distinguished delegates, I would first like to inform you of our programme of work for this morning.

We will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 10, Spin-Off Benefits of Space Technology: Review of Current Status, and agenda item 14, Future Role of the Committee. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 15, Other Matters.

There will be two technical presentations this morning by a representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific entitled "Promoting Regional Cooperation for Effective Use of Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific", and by a representative of Mexico entitled "Space Infrastructure Development for Social Needs".

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

The Working Group on the Long-Sustainability of Outer Space Activities is currently holding informal consultations in Meeting Room C0739 and they have started their meeting at 9.00 a.m.

Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (agenda item 10)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 10, Spin-Off Benefits of Space Technology: Review of Current Status.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of Canada, Mrs. Andrea Matte.

Ms. A. MATTE (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, spin-offs of space technology demonstrate how the work being done in the field of space can translate, not only to better knowledge and understanding of outer space and our planet, but also that this work is fostering innovative technologies outside the space sector, stimulating the economy and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life for humankind.

In this context, we are pleased to share some developments in Canada that are relevant to this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is working to complete a study with the École des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, a university business school in Montreal and Polytechnique Montréal, one of Canada's leading engineering teaching and research institutions. The objectives of the study are: to develop and set up a system of indicators to benchmark and quantify the economic, technological and societal impacts of space investment in our country; to study patterns of collaboration between and among space sector stakeholders, including technology transfer and spin-offs; and to create a platform that facilitates open innovation and partnerships. The current and final year of this study is dedicated to data gathering from industry. Questions to industry focused on partnerships, benefits of government funding in terms of direct or indirect impacts, and spin-offs. We look forward to sharing the results of this study with you next year.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is also pleased to be able to share some examples of spin-offs with the members of the Committee. The examples we will share today are particularly related to space robotics and space life science and medicine.

It is also worth mention that the Canadian Space Agency actively promotes intellectual property management and technology transfer, providing several licence options to those interested in technology that is developed at the Canadian Space Agency.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the robotic technology used in space robotics such as Canadarm can also provide human-like dexterity here on Earth in a variety of environments. This includes servicing nuclear power stations, welding and repairing pipelines on the ocean floor, remote servicing of utility power lines, or cleaning up radioactive and other hazardous wastes.

Remotely operated robotic systems have enjoyed wide application in industry and other fields. In medicine, Canada has been a leader in the development of techniques involving robotic surgery controlled from remote locations. As a case in point, the technology that went into developing NeuroArm, the world's first robot capable of performing surgery inside a magnetic resonance machine, was born from Canadian space robotics. NeuroArm began with the search for a solution to a surgical dilemma: how to make difficult surgeries easier or impossible surgeries possible. Since 2008, NeuroArm has been used to successfully treat dozens of patients. The technology has since been purchased by IMRIS Inc., a company based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. IMRIS is working with a major player in Canada's space industry, MDA, to advance the design and commercialize a two-armed version of the system to allow surgeons to see detailed three-dimensional images of the brain, as well as surgical tools and hand controllers that allow the surgeon to feel tissue and apply pressure when they operate.

In addition to this, MDA is continuing to apply its space technologies and know-how to medical solutions specifically for children. The company has partnered with the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada, to collaborate on the design and development of an advanced technology solution for paediatric surgery. Referred to as KidsArm, the sophisticated tele-operated surgical system is being designed for operating on small children and even infants. KidsArm is intended to be used by surgeons, in conjunction with high-precision real-time imaging technology, to reconnect delicate vessels such as veins, arteries and intestines.

My delegation is very proud of these developments that contribute concretely to saving and improving lives. I will be pleased to share more information with you as the technology develops further.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, another interesting and particularly recent example of a spin-off of space technology in the field of space life and medicine can be found in the Smart Shirt

Astroskin. Astroskin is a bio-monitoring Smart Shirt that is being developed to continuously record, manage and analyse crew members' actual physiological data. By this I mean general health, vital signs, sleep quality and activity levels, without interfering with their daily activities, something not currently possible on the International Space Station.

Although Astroskin was designed specifically with astronauts in mind, smart textile technologies hold great promise for patients on Earth who require close medical surveillance, especially those in remote communities far from their doctor. They also could be used for monitoring athletic training programmes and for patients during recovery or therapy. Carré Technologies, the Montreal-based company who developed Astroskin for the Canadian Space Agency, has since refined a version of the shirt for professional and amateur athletes using the knowledge gained from their Astroskin project. Known as Hexoskin, the product is currently commercially available for sports performance, sleep, and health tracking.

Mr Chairman, as a final example of a spin-off of space technology that demonstrates benefits for lives on Earth, let me share a little about the miniaturized flow cytometer developed for use on the International Space Station.

Traditional flow cytometers are used in labs and clinics to diagnose a variety of health disorders like blood cancers and immunological pathologies. However, their size, weight and underlying technology make them unsuitable for the space environment.

Following the successful test flight of the Microflow miniaturized flow cytometer on board the International Space Station in 2013, MDA, which I mentioned before, has partnered with the National Optics Institute, or INO, in Quebec City, and Dr. Richard Hughson of the University of Waterloo, in Ontario, on a concept design for ISS Microflow Lab. The plan is now to integrate the ISS Microflow Lab, an enhanced version of its predecessor, on board the ISS. It will be able to prepare and process biological samples, such as saliva, blood and urine, for analysis by professionals on the ground or on board the ISS. This could revolutionize space life sciences and medicine by allowing the crew to test for medical conditions in space without having to send samples back to Earth for analysis.

An Earth-based version of the Microflow Lab could be used in any situation where lab testing is inconvenient or time-consuming: remote communities, natural disasters, field work or in developing countries.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, we would like to commend the other delegations who have shared innovative and interesting spin-offs under this agenda item. The examples of technology developed, for example, by the United States and Germany, strategies undertaken to promote such development, Japan, Burkina Faso, Russia, and the results of studies, which were shared by Italy, demonstrate the impact that innovation in the space sector even outside of increasingly important and critical space-related activities or utilization. This positively reinforces and enhances the benefits and reach of outer space for our world.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Canada, Mrs. Andrea Matte, for her statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of EURISY, Mr. Colin Hicks.

Mr. C. HICKS (EURISY): Mr. Chairman, allow me first to sincerely congratulate you on your election as Chairman, and also sincere gratitude to Ms. Mazlan Othman for her dedication to COPUOS as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs before her retirement earlier this year, and a warm welcome to her successor in this position, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in 2014 EURISY is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. EURISY was indeed founded in 1989 as an association of agencies and governmental offices dealing with space affairs. Our founders, including founder President Prof. Hubert Curien, at that time Chair of the ESA council, and Mr. Jacques Delors, at that time president of the European Commission, had already a clear vision about spinning-off the benefits of investments in space to society.

Today, at a point when the build-up of the infrastructure of the European flagship programmes Galileo and Copernicus is in a final phase, the uptake of services is again high on the agenda of the European Commission. To quote the words of Mr. Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission during the European Space Policy Conference earlier this year: "The benefits of our investments need to become tangible for citizens and industry. It is time for the taxpayer to cash in. Therefore, delivering useful services becomes now a priority."

Since 2007, EURISY has been mandated by its members to bridge the gap between space and society to ensure that public investments in space fully deliver the expected benefits to its citizens. Encouraged by the words of the Commission, EURISY is committed to continue and increase its efforts in bridging the gap between space and society.

Concretely, EURISY acts as a facilitator between the space community and professional end-user communities by raising awareness of operational satellite applications and services and their benefits for end-users, by providing information about sources of funding and support for their implementation, and by accompanying potential end-users in the definition of their operational needs and the identification of appropriate satellite solutions.

In the first half of this year, EURISY has organized, co-organized or supported events in various places, including, among others, Belfast in the United Kingdom, Athens and Thessaloniki in Greece, Lyon in France, and Rabat in Morocco, on themes such as water management, digital economy, adaptation to climate change, and renewable energy.

For the second half of this year, we plan many more events, including a conference in Bari in Italy, on 20-21 November, on the blue economy and coastal zone management.

The basis of the EURISY's awareness raising activities is the exchange of good practice in the use of satellite information and services between, on the one hand, early adopters already making use of satellite services, and on the other hand, potential end-users not yet aware of the possibilities offered by satellite-based services and information.

EURISY conducts extensive research to identify confirmed and operational uses by cities, regions and small- and medium-sized enterprises, analyses their experience, and invites their representatives to share their testimonies, giving their peers the opportunity to learn about the use of satellite information and services in professional environments similar to their own. A selection of such good practices is published annually by EURISY in its brochure "Satellites Going Local", distributed directly to end-users and policy-makers via EURISY's partner networks.

Last year, coinciding with the United Nations Year of Water Cooperation, EURISY chose water as the theme of its 2013 edition. The publication was distributed to delegates at the Third International Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water

Management, jointly organized by the United Nations, Morocco and the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water earlier this year.

The new 2014 edition of the publication collects operational examples in which satellite information and services have been used to provide new products and applications in the fields of media, education, arts and culture, leisure, tourism, marketing and sustainable urban development. Its main objective is to raise awareness of how public authorities and small- and medium-sized enterprises can use satellite applications to improve their services and engage people. Moreover, the publication is also intended to promote the “Digital Agenda for Europe”, the first of the seven Europe 2020 flagship initiatives, which aims to support citizens and businesses in getting the most out of digital technologies.

Satellite imagery, navigation and communication provide digital, ICT and creative industries with a whole new range of business opportunities for the development of innovative services which can benefit citizens, other small- and medium-sized enterprises and public bodies in Europe. The more rapidly satellite-based information and services are exploited in the digital sector, the faster will products and services be produced which meet people’s needs, expectations and tastes.

We hope these examples will inspire many more entrepreneurs and public authorities to keep exploring the potential of satellite data to enhance smart and inclusive growth, conceiving and providing effective, innovative and, in many cases, “fun” services.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, EURISY encourages all actors in the space community to join our efforts in opening an active dialogue with non-space actors to collectively identify where and how operational satellite services can complement existing tools. An excellent way of bringing this into practice is given by the United Kingdom Space Agency who started this year a new programme called “Space for Smarter Governance”, a programme exactly aiming at supporting local governments in taking up space solutions and bringing the benefits of space to society.

Cities and regions are at the forefront of the conception and implementation of public policies regarding climate change, health, sustainable energy, sustainable transport, environmental monitoring and many others and are, therefore, best placed to not only benefit themselves from the innovative tools and information provided by satellites but also to deliver these benefits to their citizens.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, thank you again for giving EURISY the opportunity to address the Committee. EURISY remains available to continue supporting the work of the Committee and its members in bringing the benefits of space to society.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of EURISY, Mr. Colin Hicks, for his statement.

Are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item at this time?

I see none.

We have, therefore, concluded our consideration of agenda item 10, Spin-Off Benefits of Space Technology: Review of Current Status.

Future role of the Committee (agenda item 14)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 14, Future Role of the Committee.

I have no speakers on my list. Are there any delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item at this time?

I see none.

Distinguished delegates, I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation to explain the proposed language for the COPUOS report that was made available to delegations yesterday.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. To be honest, I did not expect to be given the floor at this point, at this particular time. Still, I am going to do my best and comment on our proposal.

It seems to me that essentially our proposals are self-explanatory. We know that the Group of Governmental Experts expressed the wish that this Committee should consider the report of the Group of Governmental Experts. Obviously, we have no objection to that. In our opinion, the GGE report contains a number of statements and suggestions that are of great practical use as to the analysis of the safety of space operations. In Russia, we have already made use of some of the ideas contained in that report and I

did provide detailed information on that in my statement yesterday to the Committee.

It seems to us that our distinguished United States colleague also expressed the opinion of the United States delegation in favour of considering the GGE report under this priority agenda item in the Committee. In principle, I do not think we would object to the Committee stating in its decisions that the report of the GGE will be considered by the Committee, worded that way, rather than what we originally suggested, namely that the report should be considered both by the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The Russian approach does have certain advantages actually because if delegates were to have a more concrete and more targeted discussion of the GGE report in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee first, then by the time summer comes around, next year's session of the Committee, everyone would have greater clarity as to the specific conclusions of the GGE that we might use in our practical work, whereas in the way that the Secretariat suggests we do it, we would have to wait for a year before such a discussion could start, whereas it could actually start in February in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in linkage with the issue of the safety of space operations.

Therefore, with your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, I will stop here now, limit myself to these brief comments. We will have to think about the proposals we just received from the Secretariat and, if I may, let me express the wish that we revisit this issue at a somewhat later time.

Thank you very much.

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

I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my delegation greatly appreciates the intervention that our distinguished colleague from the Russian Federation just made in clarifying the thinking behind the proposal that they had made yesterday and I have to say that I believe that we are close to reaching a consensus on how we might proceed. As we had suggested earlier, we agree that the Committee should take a focused examination of the GGE report and also report back to the Secretary-General on the work that

the Committee has done in the past, currently and in the future in the area of TCBMs and also make the point that much of our work is complementary and supportive of what the Group of Governmental Experts were looking at but perhaps we have a difference of opinion on the process. In order to move the process of examining the report forward, we had suggested that the Secretariat request views from member States on the GGE report in time for the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee but rather than have the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee look at the GGE report as a formal matter, we had suggested we hold informal consultations based on these views expressed by member States and these consultations could be led by the Secretariat and the purpose of these consultations at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittees would be to set the stage for a more focused examination in June.

We do not believe we will miss an entire year under that particular scenario because we will have first views provided to the Secretariat by member States prior to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and then the opportunity for consultations on the process that we will use to review the GGE report as well as the substantive contributions made by member States.

We hesitate giving this over to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, not because we have doubts about their competency but they do have a considerable amount of work that the Subcommittee has to accomplish, not only on long-term sustainability but the other agenda items. So we are trying to simplify the process while, at the same time, moving it forward. So with that said, I believe that the proposal that we have presented, as well as the proposal by the Russian Federation, are not that far apart, and so perhaps over the coming hours today we can reach a consensus on what would be reflected in our final report.

Thank you.

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

Are there any other delegations which would like to make a statement?

The distinguished delegate of Venezuela, you have the floor.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chairman. First of all, we are very pleased to see that the Committee is turning its attention to this

important matter. It is extremely important. We are under the great responsibility to closely study the report submitted to us by the GGE and the document that we have studied in detail and which we feel provides very valuable and interesting contributions which will also contribute greatly to the work of the Committee.

Now, as regards the matter of security and safety, this is something that deserves particular attention and here I would like to agree with what was said by the representative of the Russian Federation as regards the timelines or the time periods. I believe, given the magnitude, given the importance of this matter, we should start work on this as soon as possible and I think that the ideal situation would be within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. I know it has a very heavy agenda but I do feel that we should prioritize relevant matters. To our minds, we do believe that this requires close study and that all possible efforts should be made so that this can be addressed as a priority matter within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and also by COPUOS as a whole.

Thank you very much Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Mr. Chairman, I just wanted in a preliminary way to come up with an optimistic assessment of what is going to happen. I think we will reach a compromise on this.

The two statements that we have just heard, each in its own way, has been very constructive. To better understand or to provide greater clarity, let me also inform colleagues that the discussion of specific recommendations, and there are not many of those, of the specific recommendations that are, in practical terms, applicable to the issue of the safety of space operations, would not be an additional burden for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in terms of resources, time and so forth. I think it could be quite organically integrated within the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee when it considers the principles for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Of course, it will be a preliminary type of review, a working review, if you will, of the key provisions that would apply to the issues on the agenda of the main Committee. Then in the main Committee's session, if necessary, we can

make this a deeper and a broader discussion and then in the summer session of the Committee, it would lead to a logical outcome. So this a two-step approach we are suggesting, a preliminary consideration in terms of a very practical review of the recommendations that apply and then a broader and deeper consideration of the report in the summer.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Any comments from delegations?

The distinguished delegate of Mexico, you have the floor.

Ms. R. M. RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO Y HARO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chairman and good morning everyone.

In light of what we have just heard, said by the distinguished delegation of the Russian Federation, by the United States and by Mr. Roberto Becerra of Venezuela, and also based on our own opinions, it seems to me that we coming to what we were trying to find, that is a balance between the proposals for the sake of an agreement that would bring us to a good conclusion. Now I know that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's agenda is a very long one and so putting this important item on their agenda so that the GGE can conclude work on it, I do not think that there will be sufficient time to do that properly.

Instead, Chairman, I would like to suggest the following building on what was suggested by the United States. I would suggest that we try to balance this matter somewhat. Let us weigh the pros and cons and see if we can come up with a satisfactory agreement. Now, some of us may not be entirely happy with but we do have to have a decision after all.

So let us try and make sure that this item is raised in the right forum so that we can come up with a medium- or long-term solution.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Mexico.

Any other comments?

I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. Barsegov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have a simple and I think, I hope, constructive suggestion. Let us pool all of these proposals together and make it one. We accept the idea proposed by the United States delegate. As I understand it, the request is to the Secretariat, that the Secretariat should ask all member States for their vision of how the GGE issues should be considered within the framework of this Committee, how member States envision the way the GGE recommendations are processed by this Committee.

The next thing. In the Committee report, I think we should reinstate Russia's suggestion that the Committee decides to consider the issue in its next session but, at the same time, recommends that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should also consider it to the extent necessary, that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should review those recommendations that are directly linked to the issue of the safety of space operations. I do not think there is a problem here. We can pool all of these proposals together.

So again, we make the process more formal this way and it goes through the next session of the main Committee, whereas at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee session, we just do what we can to correlate our decisions with what we read in the GGE report. I think it is entirely possible and feasible. This is something we normally do.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. Hedman (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. A proposal from the Secretariat in order to make use of the resources we have in a most efficient manner. The Secretariat proposes that we continue with the agenda as we have before us, namely if there are any other views under item 14 and item 15 and, if necessary, the technical presentations, and in the meantime, the Secretariat will draft language capturing what we have discussed already now in this particular context of the proposal for how to deal with the GEE report and we will then, when this is ready, we will display it on the screen and we will come back to this discussion to see if we will have consensus language. Is that agreeable to delegations?

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Hedman.

(*Continued in French*) Is the proposal made by the Secretariat acceptable to all delegations?

Yes. Therefore, I would like to thank those delegations who have taken the floor regarding this important matter and to have contributed to further progress in our debate to reaching a consensus.

Other matters (agenda item 15)

(*Continued in English*) Distinguished delegates, this morning, I would like to continue our consideration of agenda item 15, Other Matters, by considering the following remaining sub-titles: organizational matters, other matters.

This morning I have no speakers on my list and I would like to know this there is any delegation wishing to make a statement under this agenda item at this time?

I see none.

I give the floor to Mr. Hedman.

Mr. N. Hedman (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Distinguished delegates, yes, item 15 is scheduled to now, as we currently are discussing, and it is also, according to the provisional agenda and schedule of work, also scheduled for the afternoon. If delegations do not intend to speak under this item, the modest proposal by the Secretariat is that we try to conclude item 15 now at this morning's meeting, which means that when we resume in the afternoon, we will have item 16, Adoption of the Report to the General Assembly, because we already have the first part of the report available in all official languages and we expect also one of the following addenda by lunchtime. There is also a request from the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability to have a meeting in the afternoon.

Furthermore, the Secretariat is pressured to submit for processing the remaining parts of the report after lunch so it would help the Secretariat if we can conclude item 15 at this morning's meeting.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Hedman.

The distinguished delegate of Venezuela, you have the floor.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chairman. First of all, I agree with what the Secretary has just said but it is very important for us before we conclude on this point that we have an opportunity to thank the Secretary for a document which I may not have before me right now as I was late to take the floor on this discussion, but which refers to the NGO study, studying their status with ECOSOC, as you recall that paper was disseminated. First of all, thank you very much for that document.

Moreover, I would also like to express my delegation's gratitude at seeing how the overwhelming majority of the permanent observers have been able to comply with the established requirements set out in the rules and regulations issued by COPUOS regarding their status as observers. This is something that we really welcome. We commend them for this and it demonstrates the degree of interest that these organizations have in contributing to the objectives of COPUOS and we would continue to encourage them in this vein so that they continue along this institutional path which, in turn, heightens the importance of our Committee.

Thank you very much Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

Distinguished delegates, are there any other delegations wishing to make a statement under this agenda item?

I see none.

Distinguished delegates, we have, therefore, concluded our consideration of agenda item 15, Other Matters.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to proceed with the technical presentations.

Technical presentations

The first presentation on my list is by a representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific entitled "Promoting Regional Cooperation for Effective Use of Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Ms. S. N. SIRIMANNE (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific): Thank you Chair. Let me take you through very quickly four areas that I will make my presentation on.

First, why are the United Nations ESCAP, we are doing space applications, and second, how ESCAP facilitates promoting space applications and what has been the overall impact and some of the conclusions to be shared with COPUOS coming from our work.

Just recently, we asked member States to identify the key areas and the key priorities for Asia and the Pacific in achieving sustainable development. They came up seven key challenges and they include poverty reduction, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, gender equality, and then they also looked at building resilience to all kinds of multiple shocks and particularly climate change and disaster shocks.

And as you know, the Rio + 20 have several key enablers to achieve these priorities and they are financing, science technology, trade, capacity-building, partnerships and governance and we at ESCAP believe that space applications is a key enabler for achieving sustainable development, in fact, space applications plays to science technology innovation part, talk about capacity-building and also partnerships.

And let me very quickly take you through how ESCAP facilitates space applications.

Part of our work is delivered through a very strong regional cooperation mechanism called RESAP. It is the Regional Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and this cooperation mechanism has managed to bring all space-faring countries to deliver services to the countries who are in need and countries who do not have space application programmes. And if you look at the very bottom of the slide, in the middle you will see the evolution, all the genesis of this RESAP and you see it all started in the Space Ministerial Conference in Beijing in 1994 where the regional cooperation mechanism, RESAP, was established, and in New Delhi, the Second Space Ministerial Conference and it got institutionalized, it got all its education and training networks set up and the key theme Working Group set up.

And in recent times, we go up, you will see that we have just started on a regional cooperation mechanism for drought monitoring and an early warning system in our region and then we have a very strong mandate through a couple of resolutions and Japan took the lead and we have a historic five-year Action Plan of space technology and geographical information systems for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. And, in fact, much of our work is geared to delivering the five-year Action Plan and under that ESCAP was tasked to take the lead in

implementing the Action Plan at the regional level. We were asked to harmonize and enhance existing regional initiatives, pool expertise and resources, and all share good practices and lessons.

And we have enhanced collaboration with many of our sister agencies in the United Nations systems, in the UNSPIDER, the UNITAR/UNOSAT and others and many of our regional cooperation mechanisms, the Charter, APRSAF, APSCO, Sentinel-Asia to deliver the five-year Action Plan. And under the five-year Action Plan we also have a very strong capacity-building programme to address the main technical depths in developing countries.

Now, let me quickly take you through impacts. We see three visible impacts of our programme. I just want to let you know that the main objective of our programme is to take space technology to end-users and particularly to policy-makers. And how do we do that? We do it by analytical research for public policy and regional South-South cooperation. We bridge the gap between Earth observation products and services and its down-the-line utilization and we strengthen institutional capacity.

So, with your permission, Chair, I will go through this very quickly.

Talking about analytical work, in our Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2010 that we prepare every two years with ISDR, we used the probabilistic risk assessment to quantify that a person living in the Asia-Pacific region faces 25 times more risk than in Europe or North America to disasters. And then we used geo-spatial models to look at where they are, those with intensely-risks like seismic typhoons and other hydro-meteorological disasters and also those with extensive risks, climate change and drought. And then we also identified the risk hotspots with space and GIS in the region and this was acknowledged by the member States and used as very useful policy tools in their own work.

And in 2012, in the next Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, we have a whole chapter on space technology applications for early warning risk assessment and post-disaster damage and loss assessment to showcase how the space applications can help disaster risk reduction and also disaster response.

And in the same report, we worked on Web-GIS to locate the exposure of the cities to earthquakes, typhoons, floods, etc., and identified 119 urban agglomerations are critically exposed to typhoons and seismic risk in our region. In fact, we got them to

network the cities on the same fault line, on the same typhoon tracks and the same flood plains to work with each other and to share their lessons and best practices.

And in the most recent Commission, this is the highest intergovernmental meeting that is happening in Asia and the Pacific, the title was "Building Resilience to Multiple Shocks and Particularly Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises" and some copies were made available for you back there, I think, in the room and other places. Here, we have an entire chapter on supply chains in the region based on GIS to understand spatially the disruptions in supply chains and the indirect losses, including food price increases and so forth.

Now, to the second service line. The second service line, as I mentioned earlier, is bridging the gap between Earth observation product services and its down-the-line utilization. We consider RESAP as a network of networks for access of Earth observation products. We use our intergovernmental platforms to share the products that are developed by all the partners and by doing so, we connect the right stakeholders, mainly the various governments and ministries, not just the space focal points, but the disaster management authorities and governmental ministries to the right product at the right time.

And maximizing the access to Earth observation products, we have done timely provision of near real-time imagery. during disasters in the last two years, ESCAP, through RESAP and our sister agency UNITAR/UNOSAT, has provided more than 150 near real-time satellite images and damage maps to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and others, on request. And very recently, in the Afghanistan landslide, we worked with UNITAR/UNOSAT to provide near real-time satellite imagery to the disaster management authority, not just to do the relief work but also to do the damage and loss and reconstruction work down the road that they are working on now.

And we also used innovative technical tools for disaster early warning, response relief, and damage assessment that I will get to you in a bit.

And here is the Afghanistan story and it is a very good example of bridging the gaps between Earth observation product services and its down-the-line utilization, and I just want to let you know how this is a good example how RESAP acts as a network of networks.

And here is a case, if you look on the right hand side, my left hand side, the top corner, this is of the social medias(?) capturing the pre-end post-Afghanistan landslides afforded by the Space Charter and then UNITAR/UNOSAT developed the products and then we have taken these products and we are working with the United Nations country team in Afghanistan and particularly the National Disaster Management Authority to integrate this information into rapid assessment, contributing to relief and early recovering and the flash appeal and to do the needs assessment with specific focus on DRR and also to do GODRM training based on this work that we have started.

So this is to me, this is how we link up the products to the end-users and not just for the relief effort but further down-the-line to have the damage assessment and to do reconstruction work that we doing with them now.

And one other thing I would like to take the opportunity to highlight to you is the regional drought mechanism. This is our flagship product right now. It is a monitoring and early warning and preparedness system and is a very innovative way of using space technology and, as you know, drought does not get the CNN and particularly drought in our region, they are creeping disasters but they are enormously damaging too because they affect the poorest of the rural farmers in our region and the costs are huge but they do not get the same attention that other big disasters get.

What we are trying to do is to enhance the capacity of governments to use space-based data for effective drought monitoring. At the moment, many of our developing countries use ground data as early warning indicators but then when the ground indicator indicates the drought and it is normally too late.

So what we have here is we have two regional service nodes under RESAP that have been put in place, in China and India, and they provide space-based data products as well as capacity-building and we have five pilot countries at the moment and we have already started work in Sri Lanka and in Mongolia and basically they have done the first phase of the drought mechanism and we deliver this work as one United Nations in partnership with the many agencies.

So some of the trainings and done in Sri Lanka here.

What is the interesting angle here is the drought, we call it "addressing the drought risk pyramid". You can see the climate outlooks where basically we are

adding value and innovation parties that we have brought in linking our drought mechanism with climate outlook and seasonal analysis and then specialized and in-depth institutional capacity development with the focus on sharing the know-how and technology transfer. So this is how we add value. So the climate outlook seasonal forecasts are already there. We bring the Earth observation data and products and we develop the indices that we have done in Sri Lanka. This is just the in-season drought monitoring work that is being done and we have developed the anomalies. Analysis is done now with the two service nodes, India and China's help, and we have looked at the normalized differentiated vegetation index for Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka is working on for their most valuable nine districts that they are identifying, monitoring month by month with the help of our service nodes.

And lastly, the third line of service is capacity-building and this is a special focus on high risk and low-capacity developing countries. Much of our capacity-building work is done on request. We do not go and do ad hoc training in countries, only if the countries ask that we work and since 2012, 400 government officials and practitioners of 38 member countries have been trained and many focus areas I have already discussed, many to do with disaster risk areas but we also work on geo-reference information systems, they are called GODRM, and we also provide technical advisory services.

And we use our RESAP training and education networks in China and India and Dehradun and also Indonesia and our own ESCAP institution in Incheon.

So finally, to the conclusions, while science technology and innovation are the key enablers for the post-2015 Development Agenda, space applications for us hold the key. In fact, it was prohibitive technology in terms of cost and skills about a decade or so ago. Now, especially with regional cooperation, as we have shown in our own work, we find space technology has become more accessible to low-income countries in the region and the focus areas ranges not just to disaster risk reduction and many areas of sustainable development, natural resource management, urban planning, can benefit from space technologies.

And our collaboration through RESAP and other GEO and CEOS and other international bodies is not only for data sharing and technology transfer but also for analytical political policy research and advocacy and we find this is the only way we can bring space applications to the policy-makers of our region and that

is the only way we can get the countries to use space applications in a more effective manner.

And in this regard, I just would like to say at the end that we have developed an enormous amount of tools and guides and capacity-building efforts and we are working very closely with our sister agencies and the regional commissions in Africa and also in western Asia, ESCWA and ECA, to take the work that we have started in Asia to Africa and other regions.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mrs. Sirimanne for your presentation.

Is there any delegate who has questions for the presenter?

I see none.

The second presentation on my list is by a representative of Mexico entitled "Space Infrastructure Development for Social Needs".

Ms. C. ALVARADO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Good morning Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak about the activities of the Mexican Space Agency in developing a space-based infrastructure based on satellite technology with a view to meeting the social needs of our country, particularly in disaster management.

We have three parts to our presentation. The first part is a brief description of the current situation in Mexico and issues pertaining to protecting the population and vulnerabilities in case of natural disasters. The second part is an overview of the Mexican Government strategy to meet the needs of the population with regard to the work pursued by the Mexican Space Agency, and the last part has to do with our work designed to meet those needs.

Let me start by saying that Mexico is a country that is vulnerable to natural disasters. Some figures, statistics to familiarize you with the right context. This is the red area, as we call it, the most vulnerable area, to earthquakes, and this second slide, also in red, marks the most vulnerable areas in terms of meteorological disasters. And now the numbers, official OECD figures, the number of losses and lives lost in various disasters. This is both due to earthquakes and floods.

This overview makes the context clear and measures are needed to guarantee the safety and

security of the population. The various government entities involved in disaster mitigation need better input in terms of high-quality remote sensing images. It is important to point out that the Federal Government should, by law, be the owner of these images, but at the moment, that is not the case in reality. The Federal Government has developed its own programme for creating a space-based infrastructure to bridge the existing gaps.

Regarding the sector-wise organization of the Government's effort, you see in this slide that the Government has focused on creating a satellite communications system but also addressing scientific research related issues for disaster prevention and mitigation via the use of satellite imagery. The second box in this slide lists the government entities that are involved in this coordinated effort. These are the National Defence Secretariat, SEDENA, the Marine Secretariat and the Government Geographic Research entity.

The Mexican Space Agency has defined priority areas as follows: scientific and technological work, research and development, small satellite manufacture, communications system development, small satellites in particular. The second area has to do with the ensuring of connectivity, bridging the digital gap and creating an early warning system for disaster management.

The question is how are we going to live up to these commitments and fulfil our mandate? The Mexican Space Agency has identified priority applications based on the National Plan for Promoting Satellite Imagery, Storage and Processing. In this slide you see that high-resolution images are used for disaster management, surveillance, cartography, natural resource management and collecting statistical information. In the area of natural resource management, we use both high-resolution and medium-resolution satellite imagery. These are some of the other applications we have identified. In terms of disaster management, this involves also forest fires.

The Mexican Space Agency has developed a project for putting in place a space infrastructure for remote Earth observation. After three years of development, the useful lifetime expected for the satellite is seven years and 15 years for the terrestrial segment. The remote sensing satellite will have a thermal sensor of 250 metres, a multi-spectral resolution of 30 metres and a ground space infrastructure is also being envisaged.

Based on this scheme, the Mexican Space Agency has developed its own disaster management policy. The objective is to acquire and manage satellite imagery in conjunction with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography and other entities that I mentioned. After a process of analysis and assessment of these images, this will be carried out at the research centres and the universities and academic centres, after that, the final product of this image processing will be managed by the end-user, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography and other government entities that need this information.

The Mexican Space Agency thus has developed a strategy to live up to its mandate and that includes a pilot project to set up a national centre for the storage and processing of geomatic, astro-physical and space data. We believe that it will be commissioned this year and thus we will be able to put together a historic archive of space images that can be easily accessed by end-users. This will be done through a virtual private network, a VPN Network of high capacity and that enjoys the support of the National Secretariat for Communications and Transport.

The second part of that strategy is to develop national capabilities for the manufacture of small satellites that will make it possible using the existing human resources to coordinate space technologies and technology transfer among various sectors of the economy.

And finally, we have identified priority areas for developing national capabilities used on the collective intelligence collected by the international community so that we can work jointly with our partners to promote peaceful uses of outer space.

And I will stop here by extending a cordial invitation to all delegations to attend the Sixty-seventh Astronautical Congress to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2016.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mrs. Gabriella Alvarado for your presentation.

Is there any delegate who has questions for the presenter?

I see none.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to inform you about our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 15, Other Matters. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 16, Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Sorry, there was another point before adjourning this meeting.

I give the floor to the Secretariat. Sorry.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. Yes, as we agreed earlier at this meeting, we would finish with the technical presentations and then we would come back to the points and the discussions raised on the proposal by the Russian Federation. What delegations see on the screen is an attempt by the Secretariat to capture the debate that we had and I will read out what we had put on the screen for consideration by distinguished delegates.

So this set of paragraphs, as they read now, would be inserted in the part of the report dealing with the future role of the Committee.

The first paragraph on the screen reads as follows:

“The Committee agreed that, at its fifty-eighth session in 2015, it would consider the recommendations on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities should be added, contained in the report by the Group of Governmental Experts under its agenda item entitled ‘Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes’.”

The next paragraph.

“The Committee requested the Secretariat to invite States members of the Committee to submit their views on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and that replies of member States should be made available for the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2015. In this connection, the Committee agreed that the Subcommittee could provide its assessment on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the basis of replies of member States for further consideration by the Committee.”

And the last paragraph.

“The Committee recommended that the Subcommittee provide inputs to the Committee

identifying those recommendations of the report that could, to an extent(?) practicable, be adaptive to and instrumental for ensuring safety of space operations.”

So, distinguished delegates, the floor is open for comments on these three paragraphs that you have on the screen and I suggest that we do track(?) changes on the screen while we are listening to the debate.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Hedman for the explanation, the initiative and the document which will provide a synthesis of the various views that we are privileged to hear this morning.

The floor is open for any possible additions, suggestions or comments regarding this proposal.

(*Continued in English*) I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. A. V. KALININ (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me express our gratitude to the Secretariat for its efforts in preparing this revised text. This is an attempt to reflect the discussion that has taken place here on this issue. On the whole, at first glance, we are moving in the right direction. In our opinion, even though we would prefer to have some time to work with this text in greater detail.

And let me also draw your attention to an important element that was present in our previous proposal but seems to have dropped out of this revised version. It is, however, an important point and we want to see it reflected here. It is the understanding that in the view of the Committee, it would be important that the discussion under this agenda item should include the application of the fundamental provisions of international law that may pertain to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

(*Continued in French*) Are there any other comments or views?

The United States, you have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, let

me express our appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing what appears to be a highly useful text that we can use to reach consensus. I had just a couple of general comments. We appreciate the proposal to take the GGE report and take it up under “Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes” and also the request from the Secretariat to member States inviting them to provide their views in advance of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The third paragraph, we have to give this some further thought, only because we come back to our earlier point which was the Subcommittee has a considerable amount of work to do already. If it is possible for the Subcommittee to reach some consensus on recommendations of the report that could be adaptive, Ok that is fine, but I do not believe that we should insist on the Subcommittee to do that. We agree with the earlier observation by the Russian Federation that the Subcommittee should have this preliminary view and start the process but we are hesitant to mandate the Subcommittee to reach conclusions, not because we believe they could not do that, but again, because of the workload and it is going to depend heavily as well on what inputs are provided by member States in advance of the Subcommittee meeting.

With those general comments, we are prepared to work towards reaching a consensus on these three paragraphs.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished delegate of the United States.

I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We listened with great attention to the comments made by the United States colleague and we think these are appropriate comments. However, we need to thoroughly analyse this document. It is reasonably brief and there are very specific recommendations and mostly they go to the issue of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and this is part of the discussion held here in this Working Group. We should not limit ourselves in that sense. We should try and improve and strengthen this work to the extent possible. We know very well the items before us that need to be discussed. I do not think it should over-burden this Committee. On the contrary, it would strengthen it in our opinion. It would provide an important impetus so we think it is definitely

worthwhile to make that effort and that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should come up with its own conclusions in this regard as part of the appropriate framework and as part of the discussion of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This is a worthwhile effort.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

(Continued in French) I now call upon the distinguished delegate of France.

Mr. G. DUFRESNE (France) *(interpretation from French)*: Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you to the Secretariat for this proposal which we think is well-balanced and realistic. Obviously we are in favour of having an exchange of views here in COPUOS with regard to the work carried out by the GGE. As far as we are concerned, there needs to be an exchange of views also to further reinvigorate our work here, obviously within the competency of this forum and respecting the competency of other fora.

On the second paragraph, I join the suggestion of our United States colleague in terms of the concerns we have heard this week regarding the quality of the deliberations that took place in the GGE and also the scope of the work that remains to be done. Clearly, we should prioritize our efforts and the priority for this Committee, this is unquestionable and this is something that we should strive to do to complete within the framework of the existence of this Working Group. Yes, we should follow what is happening in other fora, but we must be realistic as to our priorities and the limited means at our disposal.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from French)*: I thank the distinguished delegate of France.

(Continued in English) I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Mr. Chairman, well, the text we see before is quite radically different from the text we have been analysing half an hour ago. Let me be frank with all the colleagues. We cannot accept this text and we will not accept it because it looks on the face of it like a re-complication of the GGE in the format of this Committee. Now this makes a profanity of the entire idea behind addressing the GGE report here in this

Committee. So we would kindly request to readdress the previous text and we would prefer to work on it.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

(Continued in French) Any other comments?

(Continued in English) I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you again Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, when we say that this issue should be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we do not mean that this would be a bureaucratic full-scale consideration of the GGE report. The idea, rather, is that the Committee should urge member States to make practical use of pertinent GGE recommendations in the course of drafting the Guidelines as regards the issues of safety of space operations. So we do not want extra meetings at the Subcommittee devoted to this issue. We just want to capture the idea that the Subcommittee, while drafting the Guidelines, should address as pertinent relevant GGE recommendations.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from French)*: Given the importance of the issue and the various comments we have heard, it seems that further informal discussions are necessary. I am going to give the floor to Mr. Hedman to explain the modalities for that.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. There has been a request for more time to reflect upon the text and that is, of course, understandable. So I do not think that we may be able to settle this now at this morning's session. For the Secretariat, who eventually has to provide the drafting of a consensus-based set of paragraphs, it would be important to listen to delegations and then to discuss informally how we could merge these different views and come to an understanding. The proposal by the Secretariat is, therefore, that interested delegations that have expressed their thoughts on this matter join the Secretariat in Conference Room C5 on the Seventh Floor immediately now. We will use the time up until 1.00 p.m. or even further and then we will see where we stand. If we have a good basis for a consensus at that time, we could include a text in the draft report and delegations will have those paragraphs

in all official languages tomorrow during the adoption of the report. If we do not agree to a text, then delegations can continue the informal consultations and whatever then would transpire as paragraphs would then be lifted into the report tomorrow during adoption but delegations would not have those paragraphs in all official languages.

To make a summary, C5, informal consultations with delegations that have an interest in this matter and we would go there immediately. We will provide copies of the various texts for those delegations.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Niklas Hedman for this proposal.

The distinguished delegate of Austria has the floor.

Ms. I. MARBOE (Austria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just one point of clarification to the proposal made by the Secretariat as regards now having informal consultations. As I have seen on today's schedule of work, we start now the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability so please clarify, after the Working Group. Please could you clarify when will be the informal consultations and when will be the Working Group discussions.

Thank you.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you distinguished delegate of Austria. According to the Journal, we foresaw the meeting of the Working Group. However, we have been informed by the Chair of the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability, which was also conveyed by the Chair in this meeting, that there will be a meeting of the Working Group in the afternoon and not in the morning.

So coming back to this point, this matter that we are considering now, we will discuss in informal consultations in C5 immediately after the adjournment of this meeting in plenary.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): As Mr. Hedman just pointed out, the meeting of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities will be held this afternoon.

And now we will tackle this important issue, reflected in the proposal on which we are trying to reach consensus.

Any other comments regarding the Secretariat's proposal?

It seems that the Secretariat's suggestion is acceptable to delegations. Therefore, it will be implemented.

(*Continued in English*) Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting. We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. this afternoon. At that time, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 16, Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

I will adjourn the meeting so that the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities can hold its fifth meeting this afternoon.

Are there any questions to this proposed schedule?

The distinguished delegate of Chile, you have the floor.

Ms. T. ALVAREZ (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I apologize for bringing us back to this but something was not clear. At what time this afternoon will the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability meet? At the end? After technical presentations? Or after lunch? Could you please clarify.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to Mr. Hedman.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As to repeat what the Chair said, we will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will begin our consideration of agenda item 16, Report of the Committee to the General Assembly, and the Chair will then adjourn the meeting so that the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities can hold its fifth meeting. And, of course, it depends on the documentation we have before us or the draft report in order how much time the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability will use. So this is something we cannot decide right now but when we assume the plenary at 3.00 p.m., we will begin with agenda item 16 to advance on the adoption of the draft report and then we will have a Working Group meeting

on long-term sustainability. That would be the agenda for the afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Hedman.

I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Austria.

Ms. I. MARBOE (Austria): Thank you very much and I apologize for again taking the floor. It is because, as my colleague indicates this Working Group indeed seems to be of great interest to many delegations and there has been a lot of work for preparing this Working Group meeting, a lot of documentation and we have to discuss it. It is very important and I am a little bit surprised that we just sort of cancel the meeting this meeting and hope that we can tackle everything in the afternoon. I do not know how it is tomorrow. What was the reason actually for cancelling this morning's Working Group meeting?

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): There are two important questions here, something that is happening at the same time. I will once again address the matter of chronology.

So it is a matter of finding a consensus-based text regarding the proposal that will be added to the Committee's report. Even though we have made some progress in our discussion this morning, we have moved towards consensus but we have not yet found consensus. Therefore, the Secretariat has suggested that we immediately proceed to have informal consultations to try and achieve consensus. And, of course, all delegations are interested, all delegations are also interested in the important issue to be discussed in the Working Group. So if the Working Group were to meet as originally planned, then we would have to find another time slot for the informal consultations. The alternative is to proceed as suggested by the Secretariat and move the Working Group meeting to this afternoon on long-term sustainability to allow the informal consultations to take place now, this morning.

So that is the question. Can we proceed on that basis?

I give the floor to Mr. Hedman.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. And just to clarify so that we have a very firm understanding. The Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability process is completely separated from what we are

discussing here, the text, on the future role of the Committee. It was decided not to have a formal Working Group meeting this morning in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group. They have held and they are still holding, I suppose, informal consultations and then they will bring the package to the plenary in the afternoon. So this is, of course, a question that the distinguished delegate of Austria may wish to explore directly with the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability in the meantime. It has been clearly stated at the beginning of this meeting that there will not be a Working Group meeting this morning. It would be a Working Group meeting this afternoon.

In the meantime, in order to try to advance on this particular matter that we are discussing now, we are now wishing to use the remaining time for informal consultations to see if we can reach an understanding but this is separate from the process or the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability which will meet in the afternoon.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Hedman. There are two further requests for the floor, two delegates which wish to take the floor. The speakers would be the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation and then the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation, you have the floor.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would be ready to work together with the Secretariat and our colleagues to fix the compromise here but it is our understanding that we can reach the compromise right in this hall if we combine the previous text and the current text and try to fix, to merge the two texts. May we attempt to do this right away?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hedman, you have the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Indeed, and by all means that would mean that we can use the interpretation, of course, if we are in this hall. But I then suggest that maybe if, we would really have to be disciplined there and really go line by line and see if there is any room for varieties and changes to this text. So I would then propose that we go paragraph-by-paragraph and see if there any new amendment texts

that should be and that delegations propose really clear and concise texts to be included in this particular set of paragraphs.

I would like to ask the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation if he refers the previous text, if he refers to the text that was submitted by the Russian Federation yesterday and that we had on the screen and that was also made available to all delegations, if that is the text that he refers to.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Hedman.

I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chairman. I will be very brief, because indeed that is actually what I was going to propose. I did not quite understand why there was a need for informal consultations when we could actually continue our work here.

However, I would like to underscore the concerns raised by our colleague, Ms. Marboe, whom I greet and greatly respect. Indeed, if we had been told that the Long-Term Sustainability Working Group was to hold a meeting here this morning, moreover, I recall that at the last meeting, it was agreed that some new proposals were going to be taken up and this was a proposal also submitted by the Russian Federation as well as by the Swiss delegation. Also we had requested that those proposals be discussed here so that they could subsequently be adopted in plenary. I know the Secretariat is doing its utmost but we have more or less an hour's time available to us so we have the full range of simultaneous interpretation languages available to us, so why not make use of that moreover. Not forgetting it was extremely difficult for us to find sufficient time to discuss this important matter in the plenary and to set aside an additional hour and that is why I feel Ms. Marboe was very right to express his concern. I feel that otherwise we would be wasting the resources available to us. Why not make use of these important opportunities. I know that the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability does have commitments to meet but I also understand that it has a clear mandate, that States have been given a clear mandate and here we have an opportunity. We cannot afford to waste it or let it go by. Let us use this important opportunity to discuss these relevant matters.

That is all, Chairman, thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

Mr. Hedman?

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Indeed, the Secretariat proposes that we now start looking at the text that we are now debating on the future role of the Committee and this relation with the GGE report. In the meantime, we will convey the message provided by Venezuela to the Chair of the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability and we will ask the Chair to come to this meeting and to explain what the plan is of the Working Group and so actually we are now looking for the Chair and he can come and explain why there is no meeting now this morning.

OK? Good.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Hedman.

(*Continued in French*) I think that we appear to be reaching agreement. We are coming towards a consensus on how to approach our work in order to then ultimately have a consensus.

Distinguished delegates, we shall now resume our work and I should give the floor to Mr. Hedman.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Distinguished delegates, we will then continue our discussion on the text on the GGE report. What delegations have before them on the screen is a text that I will explain in a minute. I will also like to assure delegations that the text is now being presented to every delegation also in written form so it is easier for you to follow the discussion.

Now, what has happened here is that we had introduced a new paragraph that is marked in red, bearing correct changes, and this is the introductory paragraph and then underneath are the three paragraphs that delegations saw on the screen earlier at this meeting.

The floor is open for any comments on this new formula of these one, two, three, four paragraphs that we have on the screen and we are prepared to accommodate with track changes if we get clear proposals to change the language in those paragraphs.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Hedman for those explanations.

The distinguished delegate of Canada has the floor.

Mr. J.-M. CHOUINARD (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a few remarks that will start the discussion. I believe that there should be on top of it an introductory paragraph that refers to the General Assembly resolution 68/50 in which the General Assembly decided to refer to the COPUOS the transparency and confidence-building report and the recommendations of the report.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished delegate of Canada.

(*Continued in French*) The distinguished delegate of Romania, you have the floor Sir.

Mr. D. D. PRUNARIU (Romania): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Romania fully agrees with the proposal made by the representative of Canada and really agrees that it is necessary to report to the main document stating that the Committee should approach in a certain view the document concerning the GGE report.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Romania.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor?

The Russian Federation, you have the floor Sir.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to appeal to my colleagues, the delegations of Canada and Romania, and ask them to clarify their suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

The distinguished delegations of Canada and Romania, perhaps in the same order as they previously spoke, would you be so kind as to respond to the request made by the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. J.-M. CHOUINARD (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On 5 December 2013, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 68/50, Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, and on the second page of that resolution, paragraph 3, it says “decides in order to further advance the transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space to refer the recommendations contained in the report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, *inter alia*”. So the suggestion from Canada was to start this paragraph with a reference to the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to refer the recommendations to COPUOS.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the honourable delegate of Canada.

And I give the floor once again to the distinguished delegate of Romania.

Mr. D. D. PRUNARIU (Romania): The same explanation from the delegation of Romania, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the honourable delegate of Romania who supports the recommendation made by the distinguished delegate of Canada.

Now, I would like to give the floor to the honourable delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. With all due respect, and respect to the previous proposal, and we essentially agree with it, but we are not so sure that it would be logical for the Committee to start the part of its report devoted to its priority agenda item, solely with referring to this General Assembly resolution. We should refer it when we advance the GGE theme later on. But firstly, the Committee has to formulate its sovereign, I should say, understanding of the current status and the prospects of work on its priority item. It would be much more logical. That is why we prefer to work with the current text, I mean the red part. I listened to the comments and strike a deal here.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the honourable delegate of the Russian Federation.

Are there any further comments as regards the first paragraph?

The delegate of the Russian Federation, you have the floor Sir.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to propose to add the following text. Just a second please.

Right after the words “in that regard”, in the middle, “in that regard, the Committee observed that one such option could relate to the focussed consideration of issues pertaining to the application of principles and norms of international law that have and/or could have relevance to preserving outer space for peaceful purposes.”

Then we say, as our colleagues suggested that fully in line with the General Assembly resolution, etc., and then we proceed to the part that relates to GGE.

Can we consolidate this consensus on this part before we proceed to the rest of the text?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation for this suggestion.

Any comments on this?

The United States has the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in regards to the proposal from the Russian Federation for this addition beginning “observed that one such option could relate”, I would like to suggest a rewording of that to read as follows: “could relate to the focussed consideration of issues pertaining to the application of relevant norms of space law”, and then delete “principles and norms of international law”.

So it would read “pertaining to the application of relevant norms of space law that could have relevance”, so you would delete “have” and “or”, “that could have relevance to preserve it”.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States for this suggestion.

I call upon the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Well, we in Russia think that space law and, here I do hope that my colleague from the United States means international space law, not national, certainly. That international space law is an integral part of international law.

Now, if we colleagues take just an example the term “used in the Outer Space Treaty”, “in the draft Code of Conduct”, and even in the ITU, “harmful interference”. Now, with relation to ITU, will it be space law or not? And when we refer to issues of security in space, we do refer to this problem of radio interference, etc., in space. So it would be definitely artificial to pinpoint international space law here. Does anybody have a problem with the United Nations Charter, by the way?

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Any other comments?

The United Kingdom, to be followed by Mexico.

Ms. J. BEADSWORTH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Apart from that becoming an incredibly long sentence, I wonder if perhaps a phrase “international normative framework”. It seems rather quixotic within this forum to focus on solely legally binding but I am sure my lawyer colleagues, in particularly my Mexican lawyer colleague will pick me up if I am suggesting something that is not appropriate but I wondered perhaps “international normative framework” may capture both our Russian colleagues concerns about the internationalism of it but also the both legally binding and non-legally binding elements.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom.

Mexico please.

Ms. R. M. RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO Y HARO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I agree with the text but wanted to

point out that when we refer to space law in this forum usually we know what we are referring to but, of course, space law could also involve national space law and international space. In the case of my country, they are both part of this concept. I think, talking about international norms of space law would perhaps be too narrow. As the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation pointed out, harmful interference is something that is not defined in space treaties but it is defined in the ITU Regulations as part of international law. So the reference to international space law, international norms of space law, could be sufficient.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Mexico.

The Russian Federation please.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would certainly be comfortable with the term “international law”.

You know, to be frank, it is quite amazing that this Committee, its Subcommittee, is working on safety of space operations and at the same time, a pure reference to norms of international law poses a problem to some of our colleagues. That is amazing, you know. So may we not create a problem here, really colleagues.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Hedman, would you like to speak?

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We have different combinations there but what if we simply say “to the application of relevant norms of international law that could have relevance”, etc.

So the catch-all phrase is “norms of international law”. That is the question.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Hedman.

Comments?

Belgium please.

Mr. J.-F. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not understand very well what is being proposed. Option? What option are we referring to here?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Belgium.

The phrase “one such option”. Any comments on that?

The distinguished delegate of Venezuela, to be followed by the United States.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman. My delegation agrees with the term “international law”. This phrase is entirely relevant to the objective of this paragraph. If we talk about space law more narrowly, we could miss other important aspects of international law and this is a source of concern to some delegations. We understand that space law is part of international law. It is always necessary to refer to international law in a paragraph like this.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Venezuela.

The United States please.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my intention was not to begin a kind of exponential debate about what is law, what is not, and my delegation certainly does not need to be lectured on what international law is applicable and what international law is not. I was merely trying to tighten up this particular sentence. The term that I introduced which was relevant norms of space law is found in the General Assembly resolution 68/75. It is not an alien term. It is not an alien concept. It captures both international and national law and my intention was not to suggest that the United Nations Charter does not apply here. It was not to suggest that only national law was going to be considered and not international law.

I have no problem with what the distinguished Secretariat has suggested which was relevant norms of international law. That would be fine with my delegation. What I do not want happening here is have a rather, as I say, existential debate about what laws are applicable, when and where, that is really not the purpose of what we are trying to do here.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States.

China has the floor.

Mr. X. MA (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Chinese delegation believes that the proposal by Mr. Hedman, “the relevant norms of international law” is quite accurate because the relevant norms of international law includes but not limited to international space law.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of China.

Mr. Hedman?

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you indeed Mr. Chairman. I think we can conclude on this particular matter and move on. So we will then use “relevant norms of international law” and we can then delete the other options.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Hedman.

The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Yes, first of all, I would like to thank my colleagues for this compromise but we have a linguistic problem. “Relevant norms that have relevance”, can we fix it “that have pertinence”, may we say “pertinence to”? Or just delete “their” and the word “relevance” in the agreed text? Just say “focussed consideration of issues pertaining to the application of the norms that have relevance”. I think this would be better.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Belgium please.

Mr. J.-F. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I still do not

understand what we are going to do with this paragraph. What is the objective here? The Committee observed that one such option could relate to the focussed consideration. I really fail to see what option are we talking about here and what do we do with this paragraph exactly?

(*Continued in English*) It will review the application of norms of international law that have relevance for preserving ... (*continued in French*) There is no action established in this paragraph. What is the action for the future? Can we find a shorter wording that would make it clear what the Committee wants to do?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Belgium.

It seems to me that we have consensus on the substance so it is just a matter of language now. Would anyone else like to speak?

The United States please.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify my delegation’s view of these paragraphs. The first paragraph is kind of introducing this whole notion of considering topics under ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes noting the Group of Government Experts report and then the following three paragraphs are the action paragraphs. So the actions follow. They do not have to be in this first paragraph. That was our understanding of the structure of what the Secretariat has proposed here.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States.

Mr. Hedman will address the issue of restructuring the form of the paragraph.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Yes, we have to do something with this paragraph also because it is getting very long. One suggestion could be with the sentence started with “fully in line with”, that be separated to a new paragraph because that relates to, and we will have the references to the resolution and to the full name of the report and that would then lead into the more detailed action-oriented paragraphs but with the chapeau, the chapeau is clear as we see it now. We have one outstanding issue there and that is the question by the distinguished delegate of Belgium. It starts “in that regard, the Committee observed that one such option

could relate to” and if anyone has any way of rephrasing that or explaining that, it would be helpful.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*):
Thank you Mr. Hedman.

The Russian Federation please.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation):
Yes, we would agree to fix the language in the following way, for example, “in this context, the Committee observed that”, then we delete everything until the word “be focussed”, “that a focussed”, “be focussed”, I do not know, “that a focussed consideration” “may be useful” at the end, I mean at the end of the phrase “may prove to be useful”, “may be useful”.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*):
I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Any more comments?

Can we take it that the wording of the first paragraph has been accepted?

Very well. Moving on to the next paragraph.

Any comments regarding the second paragraph?

Apparently there is consensus regarding the second paragraph.

The distinguished delegate of Switzerland has the floor.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. We have no objection to the language of the second paragraph but maybe a more general comment.

It seems to us that this entire text does not mention one important thing that the Committee is invited to consider those recommendations of the GGE that are relevant to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. So not only the issue of space operations as such. Maybe we can add something. Maybe in the third paragraph, in fact, to that effect that invites and invites the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and so forth.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*):
I thank the distinguished delegate of Switzerland for this suggestion.

Any comments on this?

The Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation):
Thank you. We understand the logic of the proposal of our Swiss colleague and we essentially agree but may we just propose to add after the words “safety of space operations”, just add “and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities in general”.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*):
I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Any further comments?

The United States please.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The proposal just made by the Russian Federation is entirely acceptable to us. I just wanted to make just one kind of administrative point here. At some point we need the full title of the report itself and I do not know whether that will be in some other paragraphs or in these and I do not want to hold up our deliberations but we refer to the Group of Governmental Experts but there is no reference to what that report is which is the report on transparency and confidence-building measures in space.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*):
I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States.

Mr. Hedman?

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify because I can understand the delegations’ wish to see the fuller symbol numbers and references to the full report. This is probably something that we need to deal with the editors. We will put it in the full name of the report with the symbol number. We will put the full name of the resolution with the symbol number but then do not be surprised tomorrow if you do not see those symbol numbers included because it is already included under the section “Ways and Means” in the

first part of the draft report available in all languages and I am referring for your information, it is in paragraph 48 of document L.291. They have already included that because we dealt with that. We observed these two documents under “Ways and Means” earlier in this session. We will include it here and then we will see how the editing will end up. OK?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Hedman for this clarification.

The United Kingdom please.

Ms. J. BEADSWORTH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you. Given that the full title of the GGE report will include the phrase “transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space”, just to prevent making sentences even longer than they are and prevent repetition, perhaps we should word it “it would consider the recommendations contained in the report by the Group of Governmental Experts on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space” otherwise we are just repeating the same phrase.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom.

Other comments? Or can we take it that the second paragraph is acceptable?

Now, the third paragraph.

Any comments or views?

It seems there are none.

The third paragraph is thus accepted.

Any comments on the fourth paragraph?

The United Kingdom has the floor.

Ms. J. BEADSWORTH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you. I hope I have understood my Russian colleague and I am sure he will correct me if I have not. One of his earlier concerns was, and many of others around the room, is increasing the work of the Subcommittee. Reading from the sentence “in this connection, the Committee agreed that the Subcommittee could provide an assessment”, that sounds to me like we are creating work for the Subcommittee which I am not sure was

the intention. Perhaps, I am not sure on the exact suggested wording but I think maybe we should consider that the Subcommittee should consider the recommendations within its work and apply them where appropriate but perhaps it is for the broader Committee to provide assessments on the report rather than adding to the workload of the Subcommittee.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom.

The Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Firstly, we think that the preceding to the last paragraph should be merged with the first paragraph. I mean we have this extra paragraph in the middle. We really can do away with it and merge it with the text we have before it.

Can we do it because it looks somewhat redundant?

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Sorry to intervene without having been asked. Just to clarify, did the Russian Federation propose a deletion of the second element in that paragraph which reads “in this connection, the Committee agreed that the” because we have the last paragraph there.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): May we please request a three-minute break just to analyse the entire picture please? OK?

Thank you.

(*Interpreters*) A message from the interpreters. There are five minutes of interpretation remaining for the morning.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Please do not move the text. That the paragraph starting with the words “fully in line” already says that next year we will discuss this. And the following paragraph is evidently repetitive. It repeats the preceding paragraph. So all we need is to add reference to the agenda item in the text that starts with the words “fully in line agreed that at its fifty-eighth session in

2015, it would consider under its agenda item ...”, etc., and then we just delete the next paragraph.

OK?

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Any comments on this suggestion?

No comments?

Belgium, you have the floor.

Mr. J.-F. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not have comments on the suggestion just made but I have a general question and I apologize in advance if it was answered when I was not here because I could not be here all the time. But on this entire set of issues pertaining to the GGE confidence-building measures, maybe we have discussed it but I missed it. I do not understand why the Legal Subcommittee seems to be excluded from all of this discussion. Could not the Legal Subcommittee have a role to play there as well? Again, I apologize if there is something that I missed but we see that the main Committee recommends that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should provide its input but nothing is said about the Legal Subcommittee and this is about aspects of international space law. It is a pity not to see the Legal Subcommittee involved. The long-term sustainability of outer space activities and pertaining issues have directly to do with the Legal Subcommittee and its work. Again, once again, apologies if this is just an omission on my part.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Belgium.

We have been given 10 additional minutes by the interpreters. This is good news but the interpretation will have to stop at 10 minutes past one.

The distinguished delegate of Canada.

Mr. J.-M. CHOUINARD (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I would like to ask a question to our distinguished delegate from the Russian Federation as to what is meant by assessment and taking into consideration the comment made by our

distinguished colleague from Austria that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has already a workload pretty heavy and we will have informal consultations and the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability, there will be Working Group meetings, our symposium preparations, are we going here to have other informal or formal consultations during the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in the two weeks' time that is allotted to the Committee? So I would just ask for clarification of what is expected of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of Canada.

The United States has the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the final paragraph, I am not sure if that was exclusively the purview of the Russian Federation. I think this reflected the discussions that we have had over the course of today and yesterday and my delegation's view, and I want to reiterate it, we do not want to add work to the Subcommittee, as our distinguished delegate from Canada has suggested. And if I recall correctly, there was at least one idea that the Committee would recommend to the Subcommittee that it bear in mind the recommendations and the results of the GGE report as it works through the Guidelines on Long-Term Sustainability. So perhaps, again, rather than ask the Subcommittee to do an assessment or a study of the GGE report, we ask them to bear in mind the results of the GGE report as they finish up the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States for this contribution.

Any other comments?

The Russian Federation please.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you. Well, colleagues, it is not a Russian proposed text any more. It is something that is reminiscent but it is not Russian proposed. So we wonder what the very last paragraph means as well as our Canadian colleague does. So what is "assessment" and "inputs"?

Our formula was to essentially say that the purpose, the end result should be identification of those recommendations that could, to the extent practicable, be adapted to and instrumental for ensuring safety of space operations. We can say that this specific purpose should be among any other purposes but after having read the GGE report many times, we have identified not so many points that directly relate to the competence of this Committee. This is to be frank with everybody. But those are quite specific and useful but they must relate to the safety of space operations but not all of them, no.

So perhaps, firstly, if we address the paragraph starting with the words “the Committee requested to submit their views”, I mean to submit their views sounds strange. This implies a sort of assessment of the report in general, good, bad but we should focus it and say that they should submit their views on modalities of using those recommendations with respect to topics we address and may address in the future. So that should be the gist of this paragraph.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

(*Continued in English*) The delegate of the Russian Federation, you have the floor.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Yes, if we just jointly with the colleagues and the Secretariat continue, we might say on the modalities of making practical use of those recommendations as they relate, *inter alia*, or in particular, or as they may prove to be practicable and instrumental for ensuring, *inter alia*, safety of space operations, or something along these lines.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

The United States please.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to the proposal from the distinguished delegate of Russia for amending this particular paragraph and if this is acceptable to the rest of the Committee, then my delegation would suggest we just delete the final paragraph because it would end

up being redundant and then we will have a text that we can all agree to.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States.

Any further comments?

The Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you. I agree with my United States colleague but let us polish the text before we final adopt it. So “the modalities of making practical use of those recommendations as they relate, in particular,” I think, or is to “or as they may prove to be practicable”, this should be deleted maybe, “as they relate and/or may prove to be instrumental”. May we suggest “as they relate and/or may prove to be instrumental, in particular, to ensure”?

The CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you. So just to finish with this paragraph. If we do it from the very start, “the Committee requested the Secretariat to invite States members of the Committee to submit their views on the modalities on making practical use of the recommendations contained in the report”, or what? May we say in a separate paragraph, say just “those recommendations”? Would this be understood properly if it is a separate paragraph? Or “the recommendations contained in the GGE report”?

The CHAIRMAN: Now we do not have no interpretation, I think. We have to speak in English also.

Speak in English, OK.

The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation, you have finished your declaration?

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Yes, I think that the rest of the text is OK with us. We are just working it through.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Belgium.

Mr. J.-F. MAYENCE (Belgium): Thank you Chair. Again, we can understand why we are consulting or we are mandating the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to review or to assess the GGE report but it is only because it is in connection with the long-term sustainability of space activities. That is a good justification why we are only going to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and not to the Legal Subcommittee but then why not to say that it is in connection with the long-term sustainability of space activities because I do not see the words “long-term sustainability of space activities” in that paragraph. So why not to say “as they relate or may prove to be instrumental, in particular, in the review of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” and then I can live with the word “assessment” in that case because assessment from the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee can be justified in that case. But otherwise, I do not see why because it is in connection with space flight safety only the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would be consulted.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Belgium.

The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation, you have the floor.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Yes, we fully understand the concerns of our distinguished Belgian colleague and initially it was not our intention to use this formula. It is quite frigid and we agree that it provides too much competence to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Our idea was that the report should be provided to the Committee. Then we say that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and we may add that the Legal Subcommittee as well should be urged to make practicable use and this is for sure with respect of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and I would like to ask my Belgian colleague to provide the necessary formula for the Legal Subcommittee. But as for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, our idea is that the Committee should urge the Subcommittee to make practicable use of pertinent recommendations while it drafts the Guidelines on the Safety of Space Operations. That was our idea. Our intention was not to have everybody provide the report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. That was not our intention.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

The distinguished delegate of Belgium, you have the floor.

Mr. J.-F. MAYENCE (Belgium): Yes, we can live with that proposal too. I think that the GGE report will be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee when it comes to the safety of space operations in the general thematic of long-term sustainability and by the Legal Subcommittee under the relevant items of its agenda related to the safety of space operations. It is not a good sentence, of course, but the idea is that both Subcommittees take into account the recommendations of the GGE when they address issues in connection with the safety of space operations.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Belgium.

Any other comments?

Can we conclude that we have reached a consensus about the consensual version of the text?

The distinguished delegate of the United States, you have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in this paragraph that we have been considering right now, I think the changes that have now been made make eminent sense to my delegation. So in that context, this last sentence, again, we still have the word “assessment” and that is not what we are asking anybody to do. We are asking them to bear in mind the results of the Group of Governmental Experts as well as the replies of member States. So, I think, let me just read this last sentence. Again, the way this last sentence is drafted, the Committee agreed that the Subcommittees could provide assessments on the report. As my delegation has said on several occasions, we do not want assessments of the report done. We want, as the Russian Federation has suggested, we want the Subcommittee’s to bear in mind the results of the GGE report as it relates to the relevant work of each of those Subcommittees.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished delegate of the United States.

The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom, you have the floor.

Ms. J. BEADSWORTH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you. I am grateful for my United States colleague for clarifying

that because I think perhaps I did not make my point clearly enough earlier about adding to the workload of the Subcommittees. I am grateful that you have taken out that comment, the wording about the assessment but that sentence still does not make sense. Perhaps it should read “in this connection, the Committee agreed that the Subcommittees should bear in mind the results of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and the replies of member States” and then you have got “for further consideration by the Committee”, to delete that bit because that does not make sense, “and the replies of member(?) States in the work that they carry out” or something to that effect.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of the United States has the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, would it be possible just so it is clear because I think this sentence is becoming a little bit complicated, but could we not end the sentence after the phrase “the report of the Group of Governmental Experts. The replies of member States”, we will take those into account but they are just replies of member States at this stage and that will be all taken up in the full Committee in June so we just keep it very simple here and the replies of member States we will all have and we can use them as we see fit.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished delegate of the United States.

The distinguished delegate of Algeria, you have the floor.

Mr. M. OUZEROUHANE (Algeria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. With this new formulation, we do not seek earlier what is the request of the Committee to the two Subcommittees? What are they going to do?

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Algeria.

The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. G. Y. BARSEGOV (Russian Federation): Thank you Chairman. We agree with the United States delegation that the last phrase looks a bit strange. I

mean, do we still have it? No more assessment in the text? Pardon me. I mean the last phrase still looks a bit strange and redundant. May we propose to delete it and then say explicitly that “the replies will be intended for the Committee but they will be available by the time the two sessions are held and they will be distributed at the sessions” so we potentially have extra inputs from both Subcommittees.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Hedman, you have the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On this particular point, if I understand it correctly, now in the beginning of this paragraph where we really need a mandate for the Secretariat to request or to invite member States to submit their views, yes, there we say that the replies from member States should be made available for the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and at the fifty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2015. If I understand it correctly, it is enough with that information so the very last sentence in this paragraph is not needed. So that is enough. The two Subcommittees will have the replies received by member States and that is the message that we need to give.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Hedman.

The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom, you have the floor.

Ms. J. BEADSWORTH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Thank you. I would actually just reiterate the comments our Algerian colleague made. What are we actually asking the Subcommittees to do with this information? Yes, it is being made available to them, great, but what do we now ask them to do with it? I think the point has been raised by several delegations here is that the Subcommittees should take into consideration, bear in mind, whichever wording you want to use, the recommendations of the report in their work and I think that is what we are asking them to do. Now, I really do not mind how that is worded, simply that that is what we are asking them to do. It is a statement that the report and the views of member States will be made available to them but what do we now ask them to do as a result of that?

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom.

The distinguished delegate of Switzerland, you have the floor.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I would support what has been said by the delegation of Algeria and the United Kingdom. It is also to me not very clear what is being asked to the Subcommittees to deliver. It is not only about considering. I think it is very important in itself but what is the intent behind this whole proposal and I do also apologize because I was not here at the start of the morning so maybe I missed some relevant discussions to these points but I think it should be made clear in these three paragraphs that we are writing now what is expected to be done after consideration by the Subcommittees. And I think one expected output would be to see how to include these recommendations into the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines, that is one aspect of it. And I think the other aspect is what is not pertaining to the long-term sustainability in itself but what are TCBMs which could be useful for maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space should also be considered and that is probably what is going to be discussed under the relevant agenda item of COPUOS next year.

Maybe can I ask that we see the first paragraphs because maybe this way we could have a better overview of what is really being asked in which terms.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished delegate of Switzerland.

The distinguished delegate of the United States, you have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my delegation is afraid that we have strayed way, way off the path that we were asked to be on. The General Assembly resolution asked for the Committee to consider the Group of Governmental Experts report. That is really it. We, as a Committee, can do that. We can do that under the item under "Ways and Means", which is suggested here. We can do that on the basis of replies that we receive from member States. What we do not need is the Subcommittees to be doing something on this because we, as a Committee, have to decide how to dispose of the GGE report. We are prepared to go along with the notion that during next year's work, the two Subcommittees can bear in mind

the GGE report and consider it as it relates to their work but what we are not prepared to do is to ask the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee to debate the GGE report, to assess it, because we have not, as a Committee, decided that is what we want to do because we have to wait until next year to get replies from member States and have a considered discussion under "Ways and Means" of the report. I think we were on a path where we were reaching consensus. Now we are going back and trying to decide what work we want the two Subcommittees to do in this regard and I just do not think that is a fruitful way of proceeding and I think we should try to reach consensus on the text that we have.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished delegate of the United States.

The distinguished delegate of Belgium, you have the floor.

Mr. J.-F. MAYENCE (Belgium): Thank you. Our concern, as I explained, is the fact that there is an imbalance in what we expect from the two Subcommittees. In the first paragraph, we say that consideration about relevant international law will be made at the main Committee and the following paragraph we say that the GGE Expert Report will be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and now we have said that such consideration would only happen in connection with the thematic of the long-term sustainability of space activities. So I think that we do not even need to say that. It is up to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to know what can be the relevant instrument to consider in its reflection on the long-term sustainability of space activities. I do not really see the added value of the Committee telling the Subcommittee to consider the GGE report. But again, I would like to avoid a reference, a reflection on international law which does not involve the Legal Subcommittee while the whole thing is handled by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the main Committee. So, one solution could be just to not to mention anything from the Subcommittees or say something very soft like "the Committee recommend the two Subcommittees to take into account the results from the GGE". I mean, we are giving a lot of importance to the GGE. For me, it is the first time that I see that something which is totally strange to COPUOS is taking so much importance. GGE is GGE, I mean, I would go along with the United States proposal if we can really soften what we are expecting from the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and

now we are really focusing, we are leaving it up to the Subcommittees to take into account each instrument that they want to take into their mandate.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Belgium.

The distinguished delegate of France, you have the floor.

Mr. G. DUFRESNE (France): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Hearing all the comments made by my distinguished colleagues, it seems that what is important is, of course, we had what is said into the resolution about considering the outcome of the GGE report but we all want to consider that also in view of the current works in this Committee and, in particular, of the long-term sustainability that has been clearly said many times by some of my colleagues.

So, I would like to propose something so as to encompass all the comments made. Should we add at the fifth line, on the last paragraph, so we have “as the related and/or maybe proved to be instrumental, in particular, to ensure the safety of space operations and”, and then I would propose “in the context of the outgoing works of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities”, then we would have a dimension that relation that we should have to make that we are considering the GGE report also in view of our works. And if that would be agreeable, we could then strike the last sentence. That is the proposal.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of France for this proposal.

Is there any comment about the proposal of France?

The distinguished delegate of France, you have the floor.

Mr. G. DUFRESNE (France): Yes, Mr. Chairman, what I also propose that in this, that would be agreeable, that insertion, then the last sentence starting by “in this connection” would become redundant and we could strike it out.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any commentary about all the full text because I think that we have reached a consensus about the formulation of the text.

Is there any commentary?
I see none.

This is a very good achievement, I think, for us and thank you very much for this contribution, all the delegations.

I give the floor to Mr. Hedman for continuing.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This text will now be inserted in the draft draw-up for the Addenda.4 of the draft report and delegations will have it in all languages when we have the adoption of the report tomorrow.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Hedman.

I think we can adjourn the meeting and thank you very much. See you at 3.00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1.35 p.m.