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Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-third session

Script

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Vienna

Chair: Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl

The meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Good morning distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 892nd meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 9, capacity-building in space law, and of agenda item 10, review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 14, proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee.

We will hear one technical presentation this morning, by a representative of Japan on “Japan’s Capacity-building in Space Law: Recent Progress”.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue our consideration of agenda item 9, capacity-building in space law and the first speaker on my list is the representative of Chile representing GRULAC, you have the floor.

Ms. T. Alvarez (GRULAC) Thank you very much Mr. Chairperson.

Mr. Chairperson, GRULAC believes that it is absolutely necessary to promote international cooperation between the most developed countries and most developed spacefaring countries and the least developed countries. We also need to strengthen interregional cooperation so as to create synergies that will enable us to better use the capacities and resources that have been created by the various countries in various regions when it comes to the peaceful use of outer space.

GRULAC also believes that international regional and interregional cooperation in the area of technical and legal assistance will enable the exchange of knowledge and good practices and that this in turn will enable the creation of capacity at the national and regional levels. International cooperation is particularly important when it comes to promoting space law, developing space law in developing countries. It is for this reason that we would like, here, to reiterate the fact

that it is necessary for the Secretariat to continue signing cooperation agreements with national training institutions and with regional organizations with the view to promoting training and capacity-building programmes in the area of space law.

GRULAC also believes that education in space law, with a view to building knowledge of domestic and international legal regimes, is of the essence when it comes to securing the peaceful and responsible use of outer space and it is with this reason we would like to call upon countries and institutions to make contributions in this vain. We would also like to say that it is important that efforts should be made within the region to strengthen knowledge of space law. We could have for example the organization of seminars on space law, this would enable us to gain additional knowledge. There was recently such a seminar in Bogota, Colombia and we would like to welcome the initiative of Colombia to strengthen knowledge of space law regionally.

In Mexico, we also have an institute which looks after diplomatic training and this year they will be organizing together with the Mexican Space Agency a training course on the five United Nations space treaties. I would also like to give you another example of regional cooperation. There is a space project management course that is being organized in La Paz, Bolivia in November 2013, this course was organized in conjunction with the Bolivian Space Agency and it contains a module on the five United Nations space treaties and on international cooperation. We hope that a second such course will be held in May 2014 in Bolivia also, and we look forward to a similar course being organized in Argentina.

I would like to take this opportunity to make an urgent call. The UNOOSA should pay particular attention to the needs of our region, Latin America and the Caribbean, we need greater cooperation, we need better and enhanced capacity-building for our experts and we need to generate new knowledge and to this end, we need bolstered and enhanced international cooperation, thus it is necessary for seminars and workshops on space law to be organized in our region. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative from Chile speaking on behalf of GRULAC, next speaker on my list is Japan.

Ms. S. Fukushima (Japan) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I am pleased to address the 53rd session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. I would like to report on Japan's efforts to enhance capacity building in space law.

Mr. Chairman, since 2001, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is funding the winning team of the Asia Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition organized by the International Institute of Space Law, to participate in the World Finals. To date, JAXA has supported the teams from Australia, India, New Zealand and Singapore. We believe that JAXA's financial support contributed to raise the overall level of the Asian Pacific region's university programmes relating to space law. We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Asia Pacific Regional Round has been performing solidly. For example, National Law School of India University had become the winner of the World Finals in 2009 and 2012.

In addition, Keio University hosted the Asia Pacific Regional Round of the Competition on 1st and 2nd June last year, and 26 teams from six countries registered.

Mr. Chairman, last year, in order to promote cooperation among academic researchers through exchange of information concerning space policies and laws in Asian Pacific region, Space Policy and Law Academic Network in Asia Pacific (SPLANAP) was established with the great value of sponsorship from the University of Tokyo. One of the activities of SPLANAP was an international workshop held as a side event of Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) 20 in Hanoi, Vietnam in December 2013.

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased that activities for capacity-building in the field of space law have actively undertaken at two of the leading universities, Keio University and the University of Tokyo. Since the establishment of Keio Advanced Research Center for Space Law as known as "Institute of Space law" in 2012, a series of space law workshops and seminars have been held with the participation of space law experts from abroad.

The Space Law master's course at Keio University's Graduate School of Law is a two-year programme that welcomes up to 10 graduate students,

especially from the Asian Pacific region. Last year, two foreign students from Indonesia and Korea entered this master's course.

JAXA and the University of Tokyo have been providing the graduate-level seminar course on space policy in the Graduate School of Public Policy and jointly held a series of open workshops and seminars to discuss and to share information on space policy and governance.

JAXA has been accepting several university students and legal apprentices as interns every year, including those from other countries. The interns usually work at the legal affairs division of JAXA assisting its work and conducting research relating to international or domestic space law. We are pleased to have the opportunity to train young and promising graduate students who are to be space law experts. JAXA will continuously contribute to capacity-building in the field of space law and policy. Our delegation will later give technical presentations on this topic.

Japan continues to attach great importance to providing education and training opportunities in the area of space law, and facilitating the exchange of information relating to space law as a means to enhancing capacity-building in space law.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Japan for her statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to speak under this agenda item? I see none.

We will continue and hopefully conclude our considerations of agenda item 9, capacity-building in space law, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, we now turn to the continuation of our consideration of agenda item 10, review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

First speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate from Mexico.

Ms. R.M. Ramirez (Mexico) Thank you Mr. Chairman and good morning to everyone. On the basis of the outer space treaty as Mexico believes and reiterates that outer space must be preserved for peaceful exploration and use. And as pointed out by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/99, the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes should be pursued for the benefit of humankind. Still, from a strictly legal point of view, the principle of the peaceful uses of outer space is not yet categorical. Indeed, the treaty on the principles that

must rule the activities of space in outer space, the outer space treaty, only stipulates that parties should abstain from deploying weapons of mass destruction in outer space. Article 4 in the first paragraph makes that very clear.

States commit themselves to not deploying in Earth-orbit nuclear weapons or any other type of weapons of mass destruction and this applies to other celestial bodies as well. That is the text of the first paragraph of article 4, so it's not mandatory for States to pledge not to deploy weapons, suggest a recommendation. In this regard, it's appropriate to note that States must refrain from pursuing space activities that could be interpreted as a threat to the peace and security of nations, that undermine peace or can be interpreted as an act of aggression. They should not contribute to starting an arms race in outer space. It is clear that all States must refrain from impeding other States in developing peaceful space activities in a way that that State deems appropriate, and access to outer space.

As pointed out in the 2012 report of COPUOS, militarization of outer space or deployment of weapons in outer space would cause tensions among States which obviously would undermine international cooperation in space activities and undermine the settlement and non-proliferation thus, we can support the initiative not only to codify international space law, but to strengthen it, and make sure that treaties can cooperate binding provisions with regard to these matters, such as the principles for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space approved in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Also I cannot see the distinguished delegate from Mexico, much to my regret, I thank her for her statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to speak under this agenda item? I see none.

So, we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 10, review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I would like now to continue our consideration of item 14 on our agenda, proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee.

As delegations are aware, under this agenda item, we will consider two elements, namely, proposals for new items, and organizational matters. Are there any delegations wishing to take the floor? So far there is no delegation on my list. Japan.

Ms. A. Ito (Japan) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Japan believes that the agenda item 12, the general exchange of non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space is of considerable importance and we assure and encourage considerably by the supportive statement made by the delegations, demonstrate that the need for continuous consideration on this topic. We appreciate the useful information shared on this agenda item, and positive views expressed on the draft questionnaire prepared by Japan.

Japan is of the view that topic serves as an impetus to vitalize the discussions of the Legal Subcommittee and therefore would like to propose to continue the agenda item.

Mr. Chairman, Japan appreciates interest shown from different delegations in our technical presentation the day before yesterday, in statements in support for sharing information in relation to non-legally binding instruments. We recognize that it continues to deserve attention by Member States and believe that there are further points of discussion and consideration in relation to non-legally binding instruments.

The information sharing based on the proposed questionnaire, or any other form, would be an asset to the discussions related to this topic. Taking into consideration for the different views expressed by Member States, including the informal consultation with the interested delegates on this agenda item, Japan proposes to continue the agenda item, general exchange of non-legally binding United Nations instruments in outer space, for single issue item for the fifty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and exchange information among Member States on views on non-legally binding United Nations instruments and experiences of how specific measures associated with non-legally bind United Nations instruments are taken at the domestic level.

Japan is willing to contribute and looking forward to active discussions at the fifty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Japan for her statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to speak? The United States.

Mr. B. Israel (United States of America) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I agree very much with the distinguished delegate from Japan that the discussion under agenda item 12 has been a dynamic and I think a valuable one. My delegation would accordingly support the proposal by

the delegation of Japan to retain the agenda item as single issue item at the fifty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from the United States. Any other delegations wishing to speak. Canada.

Mr. B. Legendre (Canada) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. The Canadian delegation would also like to co-sponsor, I am sorry, I don't have the French term for it, to co-sponsor, in English, the proposal made by the Japanese delegation and we agree with what was said by Japan and the United States, thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Canada for his statement. The Netherlands.

Mr. Oosterkamp (Netherlands) Thank you Chairman, we have the same position like Canada and the United States and we support Japan in this proposal.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you the Netherlands. Chile.

Ms. T. Alvarez (Chile) Thank you Chair. We too would like to support Japan's proposal and the statements made by the delegations that spoke before us. We think this should be retained as a stand-alone agenda item. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you Chile, and then Mexico.

Ms. R.M. Ramirez (Mexico) Thank you Mr. Chairman, not to take too much time, we endorse Japan's proposal, supported by other delegations. We think it's a very important basic fundamental item for all of us and we hope to keep it on the agenda of the Subcommittee. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you. Venezuela.

Mr. Parra (Venezuela) Thank you Mr. Chairman. For our part we would like to thank the delegation of Japan for proposing this agenda item. We support it. We think it should continue to be an item for discussion during the year to come. Having said that, we would also suggest that wording of the agenda item should make it clear that non-binding instruments governing space activities are to be considered and we would also like to see included in that agenda item some kind of reference to the ways in which such non-binding instruments influence or impact binding instruments. Which is to say, we support the proposal but also suggest strengthening it with a particular emphasis on the relationship that exists between

non-binding instruments and binding instruments in the international legal system. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you Venezuela, next on my list is Brazil.

Mr. Rypl (Brazil) Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to thank the delegation of Japan for proposing this item and we would like to join other delegations before us in supporting the proposal to be retained as a single agenda item for next year.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you Brazil, next on my list is the Russian Federation.

Mr. Gudnov (Russian Federation) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Russian Federation supports the proposal that this item be retained, item 12 of the agenda and we also support Venezuela, that the wording should be modified and refer not just to general exchange of views and information on the legal mechanisms defined by non-binding documents, but also refer to the effectiveness and acceptability of legally non-binding instruments regulating space activities. We are fully aware of the importance of such documents and their effectiveness in many cases. We also understand that legally non-binding instruments must not replace the need to develop binding instruments where they are required. Furthermore, in discussing this item, we think the Subcommittee should consider the various instruments being developed by the European Union, China, the Russian Federation, other space actors, other agencies of the United Nations system with regard to binding legal instruments for the future. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative from the Russian Federation for his statement, I would now call upon Cuba.

Ms. I. Cabanas (Cuba) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Our delegation also supports the suggestion that the sessioned item be retained and like Venezuela, we believe that we should have a reference to the relationship between non-binding instruments and instruments that are binding. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative from Cuba. Next on my list is the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Y. Lee (Republic of Korea) Thank you Chairman for giving me the floor, and distinguished delegates, good morning to everybody.

I highly appreciate the Japanese delegation's efforts to make this suggestion on the general exchange of the non-binding international document on space law.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to request through you, to ask the Japanese delegation several questions. My first question is, according to the CRP.29 among which is the questionnaire is annexed. It is not clear to me, according to the annex, the questionnaire, who is the authority to request a Member State to submit the answer to the questionnaire? So is this is directly requested by Japan or some Secretariat? According to the CRP.29, the Government of Japan is not requesting that the Member State submit the answer to them.

The second question is if some Member State submitted the answer, who is the receiving authority of the answer to the questionnaire? Also the Government of Japan or Secretariat of this Committee? So my next question is about why the nuclear power resources-related argument excluded from the list of the non-binding document to be polled under the questionnaire. So according to the explanations, the footnote to the questionnaire, this document is now covered by some other item of agendas, but however, for example, the delivery of the document is included even now, it is being covered by another item of the agenda on this Committee. I request that the Japanese delegation to explain on this matter. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the representative from Korea. Any other delegations wishing to speak? I see China.

Mr. Z. Shang (China) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Together with other delegations we would also like to express our appreciation to the Japanese delegation for their efforts made to promote this agenda item. We are pleased to note that other delegations have shown their interest in this topic. This also shows that this topic is complex. According to the resolution adopted last year by COPUOS, this item is an ad-hoc topic which will last only one year. Therefore, if we are going to extend the discussion of this item until next year, then we will have to solve this question first. That is, whether this topic, this item will still be an annual topic only for next year and what is the terms of reference and mandate under this topic. We have noted that the emphasis laid on this item this year was on the scope and purpose of this item and no agreement has been reached on these aspects, we have noticed.

Because different delegations approached this item from different aspects — from different perspectives — however, we have also noted that this item is actually duplicated by quite a lot of other items under our agenda. Actually, it not only duplicates the agenda of this Subcommittee, it also duplicates the agenda of COPUOS, as well as the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

In the resolution adopted by COPUOS last year, it also comes under our attention that under this item, we are going to discuss United Nations instruments which are not legally binding, therefore when deciding whether to extend our discussion on this item until next year, we have to take into account those considerations I mentioned above. Since there are many items which are not, there are many uncertainties in this respect. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from China for his statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to speak? United States.

Mr. B. Israel (United States of America) Thank you Mr. Chairman. I've listened to the views expressed by a number of delegations and as the distinguished delegate from China observed, delegations seem to be taking a number of approaches to the topic of legally non-binding United Nations instruments. I recall last year that we had extensive discussions on what would be the scope of our discussion on this item. I recall quite a lot of interest in the item in general but quite a lot of discussion about how exactly we would discuss it and that continued on to the full Committee meeting in June and then we arrived finally in consensus on how we would approach this item. With that in mind, we would support continuing the item for another year as a single year item, with the same scope in terms of reference as we had for this year's Legal Subcommittee. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from the United States. I would like to ask Japan to respond to questions which have been directly addressed to your delegation.

Ms. Ito (Japan) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I should start with the views and suggestions expressed by Venezuela, distinguished delegation Venezuela and Russia with regards to the difference to legally binding instruments. We would like to thank for the constructive suggestions and we are aware of the importance of legally binding instruments but we are of the view at present, that first we should discuss how non-legally binding instruments are followed and applied by different Member States before discussing on its relation to, or impact on the binding instruments, and therefore we are of the view that we should continue with the scope and the mandate which has been decided in line with A/AC.105/L.288 in last June, the objective is to facilitate exchange of views and to share information on the specific measures taken by Members States and that is the view for the moment. We should like to suggest that perhaps at the next session, taking into consideration the views expressed and information

provided at the session, we would consider the next step.

With regard to the questions addressed by the delegation of Korea, regarding the questionnaire. We would like to say that the questionnaire, the proposed questionnaire, is a voluntary contribution of Japan and it is similar to the excellent initiative made by Czech Republic, Canada and Germany on the space debris mitigations compendium. So, we are not requesting the Member States, we are not forcing the Member States to provide the information but we are trying to help the Member States to consider what kind of information to be shared under the session on the general exchange of non-legally binding instruments.

With regard to the NPS power sources principles, I would like to clarify that it is covered under the scope of the general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space in line with A/AC.105/L.288, it is listed in paragraph 3 that the scope will focus on the 11 non-legally binding United Nations instruments and one of it is the nuclear power sources principles, as well as the safety framework for nuclear power sources application in outer space.

What we say in the proposed questionnaire is that since the major substance of nuclear power sources framework is covered under the nuclear power sources principles, we did not prepare two questionnaires on the nuclear power sources applications issues.

We would like to say that taking into consideration of different views on this agenda item, it would be perhaps at present, we would like to suggest to continue the agenda item on the present scope and mandate decided by the COPUOS in line with A/AC.105/L.288 and we will decide later about how it is to be conducted in the future. But for the moment it is better that we should follow the scope and mandate which has been gained consensus in last COPUOS meeting in June. Thank you very much for your attention.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the delegation of Japan. Are there any other delegations wishing to speak? Germany.

Mr. P. Wennholz (Germany) Thank you Mr. Chairman, just very briefly, we thank the Japanese delegation for their presentation and we of course welcome the Japanese commitment to the issue of non-binding instruments that we supported. However, we would like to remind delegations that the German delegation has put forward a proposal with a comprehensive approach as to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee that would also offer a solution to encompass the item of, the issue of non-binding

instruments under a permanent agenda item, so we would like to express that we make our support of the Japanese proposal subject to the opportunity to be able to continue our proposal. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you Germany, are there any other delegation wishing to speak? Yes, the Russian Federation.

Mr. P. Kornatskiy (Russian Federation) Thank you Mr. Chairman. We can see that during the discussions here, we have heard a number of different opinions. Nobody objects to this item of the agenda being retained but as far as we understand, there seem to be questions among States and different positions with respect to the mandate under this item of the agenda.

We are satisfied with the fact that — we would be happy if we were to work on this item earlier — but I think we need to decide how we will take this item forward. In our opinion it might be sensible to discuss not just the legally binding instruments of the United Nations, the existing ones, but also how they are developing, not just how they are being implemented by States and their national legislation, for example, or how they are being implemented in other ways by States, but also how these non-legally binding instruments are being translated into States initiative, how States are using these documents as a basis for these initiatives, both individually and then regionally too. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative from the Russian Federation. China.

Mr. Z. Shang (China) Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have two procedural questions. The first one being: as mentioned by distinguished delegate of Japan, the extension of this issue will be decided by the June meeting of COPUOS. Instead, the decision should be made in this current session of Legal Subcommittee, this my understanding correct. The second issue is what was mentioned by the distinguished delegate of Japan (a) the document L.288, adopted by COPUOS last year, in which not only the objectives and scope of this item were specified, at the same time, the working method was also prescribed. I would like to read out in English: the method of work firstly, it is proposed that Member States should be encouraged to exchange their views and experiences in relation to the objectives and the scope of the proposed agenda item, which are identified in paragraph 2 and 3 above. Following such exchange of views, Legal Subcommittee would discuss further modalities for seeking a common understanding

on how to promote the non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.

So I agree with the viewpoints by the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation. First we are discussing the scope and the objectives of this issue. If we ask the delegations to provide information at the current stage, or based on this information, we need to carry out analysis. I don't think this is what is specified in this document. So more important thing is that if we are interested in this agenda item, which would specify the objective and scope of this issue rather than imposing on everybody else to provide information and provide analysis.

Just to make it clear, according to our understanding, we are right now, discussing on the purpose and the scope of this agenda item, we are not coming to this stage to make analysis on national practice based on the information provided by our other Member States and observers because that goes too far from the mandate of the legal document as I mentioned, that is A/AC.105/L.288 adopted by the UNCOPUOS in last June. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from China for his statement. I see that at this stage we are not ready to make a decision. While there is certainly a widespread and maybe even unanimous interest in the topic and there might also be an understanding, an agreement in the end on extending this agenda item as a single issue item — discussion item, a one-year item — for next year. There are a lot of questions which are still open and which have to be resolved before we can come to a conclusion. I would like to list them from what I heard and how to possible group them.

The first is the title. This has been expressed by Venezuela, and others, to extend the title, to expand it, to rephrase it, to give it a new touch. Then there is the area on the objective and scope, the mandate, the concept also regarding the item. Should it be maintained? Which was expressed in particular by Russia and China. There is also the question of the interrelationship of this item with other items, a potential duplication of the item with other items which was expressed also by China. There is the issue of further procedure because there was still also the idea of making a workplan, a multi-year workplan out of that item, which is opposed by Germany due to the current and tabled proposal for restructuring of the agenda, and there is the issue of the questionnaire raised by the Republic of Korea, this is not exhaustive, it is just my personal way of looking at the issues and topics which have to be solved before we can come to a conclusion. Again, I think we are on a positive trend,

but these are the points which have to be clarified before we come to a conclusion.

Now what I would like to propose is the following: that we continue this discussion in plenary on the further procedure on this item this afternoon, agenda item 14 will be discussed again this afternoon and I suggest that interested delegations are conducting informal consultations during the lunch break or as soon as we will end our meeting of this morning, and try to come to a conclusion and present an approach which might be acceptable to everybody in our afternoon session, where we will then continue our discussion on the further procedure on this item and hopefully can conclude our discussions on this with a decision. Is this an acceptable procedure? I see Mexico.

Ms. R.M. Ramirez (Mexico) Thank you Mr. Chairman. It seems acceptable what you proposed and you have made an effort to take into account all the various views expressed here by Member States. It is not an easy task. The distinguished delegate of Japan has very clearly defined the scope of the working group in question. Let me add that all proposals that will be made to broaden the mandate of the group to include some documents or some instruments that are binding, let me state that L.288 establishes the power of the Subcommittee to establish working group on any issue on the agenda. At this point we've just exchanged views as to how non-binding provisions are applied by States. Going further Mr. Chairman, it's important to analyse what various countries have done in implementing these non-binding instruments and once we have carried out that analysis, we will perhaps realise that this goes further and touches up on other existing instruments. You will recall that the United Nations General Assembly has endorsed the five outer space treaties, the legal framework of all outer space activities by States and passed a resolution in that regard. So it seems appropriate to ask non-binding instruments are important, but the fundamental question is to what extend do they help, or do they promote the implementation of those fundamental principles that are established by binding instruments. So maybe that working group will eventually want to broaden its mandate and we should be very careful in defining the method of work for that group to see how we proceed once we've established the impact of implementing non-binding instruments as to how they relate to the binding instruments that have been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly. So I think it would be important for distinguished members to consider this possibility of broadening the groups' mandate. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Mexico, providing another

element of scope and mandate for the item to the debate and I encourage you to also participate then in the informal consultations on that topic.

Are there any delegations wishing to speak on agenda item 14, not related now to the question of how to proceed with agenda item 12? France.

Mr. Clerc (France) Thank you Chairman. I would just like to make some comments on behalf of the French delegation with respect to the number of items related to the organization of our work. First of all with respect to the new agenda item on a general information exchange on non-binding legal instruments. Well, as I said yesterday during my intervention on item 12, France is one of the countries that has actively supported this new topic within the Legal Subcommittee and we will provide detailed responses to the very comprehensive questionnaire that has been tabled. This subject lies at the heart of the work of the Legal Subcommittee. It will facilitate exchange of views on the ways in which States take maximum benefit from the non-binding legal instruments. How they make the best use of the existing United Nations legal framework.

The discussions during this session of the Legal Subcommittee have been quite promising and we look forward to receiving the summary that will be submitted during the next session and then we look forward also to the debates that will ensue. This subject is very vast, we need to accord adequate time, and it is for this reason that we favour this item being taken up during the next session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2015.

Turning now to the working group that is chaired by Professor Aoki on mechanisms of international cooperation. International cooperation mechanisms for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. I would like to congratulate Japan for the excellent beginning which has led to an agreement to the questionnaire. This is a great step forward in terms of sharing experience in international cooperation. We look forward to participating in the work of this body during the forthcoming session and also during the intersessional period.

Finally, when it comes to the proposed reorganization of the work of the Legal Subcommittee as proposed by Germany, as we said in our national statement, this is a reform project of crucial importance. This reorganization is particularly timely and there are a number of reasons for this. At a time of budgetary constraints from many States, we do need to prove that we are making optimal use of the resources devoted to the Legal Subcommittee. These two weeks of work that we've had in Vienna, we must take the

maximum benefit from them. This re-organization project is an opportunity to rethink dynamically the organization of our work and the items on the agenda of this Subcommittee. We wish to have a tighter agenda that will enable us to make a distinction between topical and substantive items, and then items that just require simple exchange of views or an updating of our views. The optimization of our work is particularly necessary at a time when the working group on long-term sustainability of outer space activities when their work is coming to an end and we hope that will be finalized next year, many subjects including those that are covered by the guidelines will be taken up in the years to come. The proposed re-organization will require the full backing of all members and it will require formal and informal consultations wherever there are matters on which consensus is absent. For example the link between the work of the first week and the work of the second week or, in terms of substance, the link that we wish to build between the work of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Legal Subcommittee.

We believe however that step-by-step progress is possible and you can count on the full support of the French delegation for the following. We believe that initially when it comes to recasting the agenda items, so as to have a more concentrated agenda, we need to seek to build consensus around your proposals Sir. Now, as the long-term sustainability working groups' final report starts to take shape this year and during the session in 2015, the topics that should be taken up by the Legal Subcommittee in the forthcoming sessions should become clearer. We need to give ourselves the time to have dialogue on the link between the two weeks of work and we need to decide on the best way of reorganizing the sessions of the Subcommittee. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative of France touching upon a number of topics on our agenda and on our working methods. Are there any other delegations wishing to speak at this moment? I see none. So we will therefore continue our consideration on agenda item 14, proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, we will now turn to two technical presentations. The first will be on Japan's Capacity-building in Space Law: Recent Progress and the second one will be by the Chief Conference Management Services and we start with the presentation by Ms. Fukushima on the topic of Japan's Capacity-building in Space Law: Recent Progress and as usual, fifteen minutes are dedicated to that. Ms. Fukushima, you have the floor.

Ms. Fukushima (Japan) Thank you Mr. Chairman, sorry for the delay.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, today I would like to introduce recent progress of Japan's capacity-building in space law through two of Japan's leading universities and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). I have divided my presentation into three main parts which are: cooperation between universities and JAXA; activities of universities and JAXA's contribution such as providing internship opportunities.

This is the basic framework of capacity-building of space law and policy through cooperation between the two leading universities and JAXA. JAXA encourages Keio University and the University of Tokyo establish cooperative networks with Japanese and foreign universities and institutions which will enforce space law and policy study in Japan, and at the same time encourage other Japanese universities to follow them.

In Japan, Keio University placed the leading role for capacity-building in the field of space law in 2012, the University established the Keio advanced research centre for space law as known as Institute of Space Law. This interdisciplinary research institute studies various aspects of space-related legal issues corresponding to the expansion of space activities and the development of space-related technology and its commercialization. It aims to achieve the following: Capacity-building in Japan's space law research by examining the legal aspects of various issues in space activities and improving the level of research in the field of space law, nurturing practitioners and researchers in the field of space law by providing knowledge on space law and capacity-building in Asian countries in the area of space law.

The space law master's course at Keio University's Graduate School of Law is a two-year programme that welcomes up to 12 graduate students, especially from the Asia-Pacific region. It provides opportunities various aspects of space law, from the current status of discussion of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS to the domestic space law. By doing so, students analyse the direction of making law, the law of United Nations in making the international space law and the positioning of space law in the international legal framework and structure. These are the courses provided during the 2012 and 2013 period, there are also study groups for space commercialization, such as programmes of trade conflicts and liability from the operation and use of global navigation satellites and suborbital flights.

There are also projects for comprehensive space law database in Japan. The outcomes of courses and study groups are presented through symposia, public lectures and panel discussions by space law experts and practitioners are also given at the same time. Two symposia for successfully held so far with the participation of Dr. Horikawa, Chairman of UNCOPUOS, Mr. Doi, expert of Space Applications and Chief of the Space Applications Section at UNOOSA and Professor Benko. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their generous support

Last year, the Institute of Space Law had hosted the Asia-Pacific regional round for the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court. The winner was the National Law University of Delhi, India.

Keio University and JAXA appreciate the great support it has received by the IISL, international colleagues and professors who kindly support the Asia-Pacific Regional Round.

And now I would like to introduce JAXA's contributions to the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court. Apart from providing financial support to the winning team of the Asia Pacific Regional Round to join the world finals at IAC, JAXA also supports the annual Japanese national round by offering advice to student organizers and dispatching JAXA personnel as judges.

The University of Tokyo Graduate School of Public Policy launched a unique initiative in collaboration with JAXA named the University of Tokyo Space Policy Initiative (UT/SPI). Since 2010 it has conducted joint research projects on "Space Activities and Public Policy". This initiative was established in order to study the transition of Japanese space governance and policy after enactment of the Basic Space Law in 2008. Its purpose is to promote space policy study in Japan and cultivate its practitioners and academic researchers. UT/SPI is also working to establish international academic networks between universities and institutions in the United States, Europe, Russia and Asia-Pacific Region. The hope of this initiative is that it will become an Institute in the near future.

Currently, the Initiative mainly consists of three types of activities: Education for students through weekly lectures, a study group led by professors specializing in Space Policy and Governance, and outreach activities such as open workshops.

For the graduate student's weekly lectures, government officials, space agency officials, experts from industries, researchers and scholars are invited as

lecturers. Space diplomacy has been the most emphasized topic of 2013.

At the moment a Space Governance Study Group is exploring a US-Japan space alliance and has been inviting foreign professors to these workshops for discussion.

In 2013 the University of Tokyo Policy Alternatives Research Institute (PARI) started a new research project concerning space policy issues from the perspective of Japan's foreign policy and diplomacy. The Objectives of this project are to establish a think tank for space policy issues focusing on foreign policy and diplomacy and to enhance the capacity needed for conducting research on space policy issues.

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

PARI has been communicating and collaborating with think tanks, universities, and research institutes in foreign countries to carry out research and analysis. It has also recognized the importance of networking with global experts and opinion leaders to promote space policy studies, and has been holding open workshops and symposia in Japan and abroad. For example, last October, the International Workshop on "Space Policy and Law in the Asia Pacific Region" was held at the 64th IAC with the participation of space law researchers from all over the world including the President of the IISL. It launched an Asia Pacific region research community called SPLANAP, which I will introduce in the next slide.

PARI also organized an International Workshop on "Capacity Building for Space Policy and Law Research in the Asia Pacific Region" as a side event of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) 2013 in December with the cooperation of research institutions concerning space law from China, India, Malaysia and Japan.

PARI would like to thank these participants for their cooperation, and encourages the further development of research related to space law policy in Asia Pacific Region and capacity-building for such activities.

SPLANAP is a cooperative community among researchers in the field of space policy and law in the Asia Pacific region derived from PARI. It is a platform for exchanging and sharing views, opinions, and

information concerning space policy and law. The purpose of SPLANAP is to promote space policy and law research in the Asian Pacific region through international cooperation among researchers. Two international workshops in collaboration with researchers from the Asia Pacific region had been held so far.

Finally, I would like to introduce JAXA's capacity-building activities. Nowadays, JAXA's internships have become popular not only among future engineers and scientists but also future lawyers. Every year, JAXA accepts several university students and legal apprentices. Normally, they work at the legal affairs division for 2 weeks. During this period, they conduct research on current issues on space law and at the end of the period, they must submit a report to JAXA. Even after the internship, many of them continue to be involved in the research programmes at Keio University. Additionally JAXA has provided an internship opportunity for a foreign student.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude JAXA will continue to support capacity-building in the field of space law and policy. We wish to strengthen international cooperation in these areas by promoting international networks and research cooperation. I would like to end my presentation by presenting one future capacity-building activity headed by JAXA in collaboration with universities, the APRSAF-21. which is to be held in December of this year.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank Ms. Fukushima for her technical presentation which she managed very well in fourteen minutes. Thank you very much. Now are there any questions to the speaker on the presentation? I see none, so thank you very much again.

We now have the pleasure to have with us the Chief of Conference Management Service who will address the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. I. Karbuczky (CMS) Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished colleagues. I would like to present you with a new tool that we launched a few weeks ago, you probably read the announcement that was sent to the permanent missions and it's on the UNODC website also, this is an online service that is going to be an additional service, not intended to replace or substitute anything that is currently provided to you but it is designed as a paper-smart tool and intended to eventually reduce the use of printed copy documents.

It is based on the large touchscreen info kiosks that are on the corridors here in Vienna and in

New York. This was designed and built by the Conference Management Service of UNOV and the information technology service of UNODC jointly, required very little investment in terms of developers capacity, and running it requires even less. We can go quickly through the screen, this is your opening screen. I will come back to the conferences because I suppose that will be the most used feature of this tool. The services tab would offer you the available services in the VIC, you can open either of those and you will see basically the information that you see behind, open hours, phone numbers and the like. Orientation is very basic, the layout of the conference facilities, public transportation, it is just basic information. United Nations information services and other local info such as the Vienna City Offices information is available here and the history of the VIC with all the occupants listed and their web addresses shown.

So as I said, we suppose that the conferences tab is the most useful for your purposes or for VBOs, meetings information is available here. Least useful for the time being is for the Atomic Energy Agency, you can only see the current day schedule and this is because information that is presented in this tool is dynamically coming from two main applications, one is the meetings management application that is used by all four VBOs, but with you and CTBTO and UNIDO to its full extend, the Agency so far only using it for announcements that you see also on the screens on the corridors. So no further information for the Agency is available as yet, but they are in the process of joining and using the meetings management tool that the other three organizations are already using and then information will be more rich for them as well.

So if you look at the United Nations site, you have a choice of course, checking the day, the week, the month. This is your session and here there are a number of things that are available to you. First there is the meeting schedule of the session, a plus sign would indicate that the meeting has digital recordings, so clicking on it you will get the list of speakers and you can select a language and then you see the media player popping up depending on the browser it could take some time.

I need to mention that the tool is designed to be accessed through hand-held devices, so it's not meant originally for PCs, of course it can be accessed through your PCs from anywhere, it is a web application, the address is myconference.unov.org, but it is configured for any hand-held devices, smartphones, blackberry's and the like.

Is the browser opening? It could be an older version of the browser in the conference room. In the meantime, we can go back and I show the other

features. So in addition to the listing of the meetings, and with a little luck getting the digital recordings, you can have the pre-session, in-session documentation and agenda journals here. The pre-session documents are listed based on their symbol. They are grouped also on the different categories based on the core of the symbol and then by selecting a language version the PDF download will be available for you very quickly. It doesn't go through ODS, so there is no dependency on ODS, as I mentioned it is coming from our own documentation management storage facility. In-session documents, similarly listed based on groupings and CRPs, technical presentations and again, if there are language versions that are available they would show. Agendas, journals, again, at your fingertips.

Based on the time of the speaker, you would have to drag your cursor to get to the point, I don't know if we have the sound hooked up, but in any case, with your own device you will have the sound of the speaker. This is a trimmed down version of the digital recording as you know on the outer space website you will have choices of listening to the digital recordings similarly to this one, but you would also have a choice of downloading the whole MP3 version of a particular meeting and listen to whoever you would like to.

There are search possibilities, you can search on the VBOs on the meeting information because the opening screen as you remember only gives you the day, the week or the month choices, so if you want to search outside of these time frames then you would have to come to the search screen. This screen is familiar to you, this is the same as you see on the corridor monitors, the daily schedules. We have a feedback possibility if you after the session you like giving us a little bit of feedback then it is a very short survey that you can fill out, and just yesterday we uploaded a video guide which would tell you pretty much the same that I told you. I wonder if it will run now because we are experiencing a little bit of issue with that, well if it doesn't want to play on this browser then you can check your own.

The running costs and effort are very minimal, as you can see the main tabs contain static information, the only dynamic information is coming through the meetings and documentation part. Again, the meetings information is automatically appearing here from the meetings management tool, the only human intervention is required to uploading, or rather selecting the documents that are shown here, we don't want to run the risk of any document automatically showing up here from our documentation management tool, so someone in the substantive secretariat or in my office would have to select in the administrative site of the application, the documents that we want to show,

but that's again a click here, a click there and then the documents would appear on these categories.

I hope that you will find this tool useful, again the idea is to get to meetings and documentation information more easily and eventually hopefully would reduce the number of hard copies you would want to print. We are fully aware that especially reading long documents is inconvenient on small applications, but nevertheless I hope that this will be a useful addition to the number of services that we provide. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have and would encourage you to use the system, check it out, give us feedback. We've received some good user feedbacks about certain discrepancies in how we present times and other information, so let us know please if you are experiencing in particular accessibility issues, old browser versions or smartphones or smart tools that we don't have so we did not have a chance to test necessarily, it would be good for us to know what difficulties you have and suggestions for further improving this tool and making it more rich in terms of information and other features.

Thank you very much for the possibility.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the Chief of Conference Management Service for his introduction to the online tool and for addressing the Committee. I must apologize when I seem to be not attentive to what you said, it was because I had just checked it also on my iPhone, I did that before, so I can assure you that myself at least, I am very much convinced by that tool and I must congratulate you for establishing it, it is certainly useful and I will open the floor to the delegations for questions or for further reactions. On one thing I must caution, I should say, I am also responsible for sustainable development in my organization, and we always try to come up with good ideas in and for reducing the use of resources, be it water, be it also paper, we even intended to go so far to provide tablets to our delegates if they would have promised not to print anymore, but they were not ready to make that deal. So it's of course an issue to save resources, like not to waste too much paper on printed copies and it would be great if your tool would be able to contribute to that purpose. Now, are there any questions you would like to ask to the Chief of the Conference Management Services. I have already a small list of speakers, the first is Venezuela.

Mr. Parra (Venezuela) Thank you Mr. Chairman, and many thanks to the Conference Management Services for offering a very clear vision of how we can improve our work, the work of this Subcommittee, make our session here in Vienna more efficient and effective. Maybe I missed something, but I have this question: will the system in some way replace the

existing OOSA system online? In particular I am referring to the website with regard to long-term sustainability of outer space activities, it contains some internal documents and rather specific documents for this particular Subcommittee and for the working groups, so my question is I don't know again if I missed something, but I didn't hear in your presentation as to when this will start functioning officially, let's say. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished representative from Venezuela, next on my list is Iran.

Mr. H. Shafti (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) Thank you Mr. Chairman, and through you I wanted to thank the Chief of Conference Management Services for this presentation. I think this online services would be very helpful to all delegations and a very useful tool available for the use of the delegates. I just wanted to raise a question regarding the sources which have been put in this online services and I wanted to know is there any possibility to have access to the written text of the statements delivered by member States during the sessions of the Subcommittee or the Committee. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you representative of Iran, next on my list is Brazil.

Mr. Rypl (Brazil) Thank you Mr. Chairman and I would like to say that this initiative deserves the highest praise, because any kind of contribution like that that tends to facilitate communications, reduce the amount of paper we use, is just in line with our objectives. I would have a suggestion, so you could analyse the feasibility. Maybe you could think of some kind of push service that delegates could register in before the meetings, and as documents become available we could be receiving them in our tablets, and of course along the session as new conference room papers are updated we would be receiving that, without the need to actively search for and download these documents. I don't know if this is feasible but this would greatly facilitate our work as delegates. Once again, thank you for this great initiative.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you Brazil, Indonesia.

Mr. [...] (Indonesia) Thank you very much for Chief of Management Service and thank you for the Chair for this opportunity. We would like to say something, especially with this website which is very important for us to make some documentary, that we can bring it home and we can make some notes to our leader in Indonesia, my question would be can we access this website while we go home, because if we can access it when we go back home to our country

that means this website doesn't have any confidentiality and I agree with Brazil, which is that we have to register first so that the importance for us to get some access without any interference with other people. The second question is about the recording, I saw that we can get all of the recordings while we are doing the meetings, is it only in the original language, or are there any translation of this language because the translation is very important to us. Thank you very much Mr. Chair and hopefully will be useful for us. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you Indonesia, any other delegations with questions? I see none so I would pass to the Chief of Conference Management Services.

Mr. I. Karbuczky (CMS) Thank you Sir and thank you for the kind words of those who asked questions, thank you very much on behalf of my colleagues, very few people involved, it is a very small team but they are very enthusiastic about doing this. To the distinguished delegate of Venezuela, yes indeed I mentioned, but I have to emphasize again, this is not intended to replace any currently available other tool or website. This application is for all VBOs and all the committee's, the offices, the divisions, the subcommittee's that are holding sessions here, available for them. It has a limited purpose, the outer space website is of course a much more rich in terms of specific information for that office. This is all that you see. Meeting-related information, documentation that is related to that particular meeting. The idea is that the tool is used more or less in the meeting room or during the session in the corridors, you know to give you access during lunchtime if you want to quickly look at the most recent CRP and you don't have a printed copy, you can look at it in any place where there is Internet access.

You were asking when it is available, it has been launched just before the start of CND officially, so a few weeks ago, so it's out there, it clearly still has some bugs that we discover but that is normal I think and that is why I would encourage the broadest possible use so we find out about those issues but the application is out there and it worked during the CND, it worked here. We used a travel version of it, I must tell you this also, we have a travel version, I call it, that we used in Panama in the COSP 5 and in Lima for the UNIDO General Conference. There you can imagine that the orientation is the local conference facility, public transportation, how you access it and host country information, so it is data for that and it was already successfully used in those two major conferences.

The distinguished delegate of Iran is asking about statements, accidentally this is one of the questions in the survey monkey, also we are asking if you would consider it useful to have statements. It is possible to put statements on it, we used it for the CND also it requires a bit of an effort because of course the delegation would have to provide the statement, the Secretariat would have to scan it in, and then it can be shown, but again it is something the body would have to agree to this and the individual delegation would have to be willing to make the statement available.

Thank you for the suggestions from the distinguished delegate of Brazil. Indeed there is a tool available and colleagues in New York developed it, we like to be proud of our own development tools here but in this respect colleagues in New York developed what is called in New York eSubscription and we are in the process of taking that also over here. Where exactly it would work as you described it, so delegations can subscribe to certain type of documents and as soon as the document is available it would be pushed to the given mailbox of the delegation. So give us a little time, it takes a bit of technical adaptation but we will make that also available here.

Distinguished delegate of Indonesia, asking about the access to the tool, it is a web-based application, so you can access it from anywhere, and again on the survey monkey there is a question whether you are accessing it during the meetings here or from your mission or from the hotel or from outside, from home. It is accessible from any location where there is Internet access. A confidentiality issue, of course I forgot to mention that we are only presenting information that is public information. So there is no password protection involved here. If a body is holding closed meetings, then the closed meetings recording are not shown here, if the practice of the body is that a draft resolution is being discussed CRPs or L documents are not made available for NGOs or press, for example, then it is not going to be published here either. There is no confidentiality issue in that respect.

The digital recordings are available in all languages as you can see here you can select any of the languages or the floor, which is the authentic recording of the meeting while the interpretation channels of course contain what my colleague in the interpretation booths are saying while interpreting the original floor language statement. But again, these are kept as long as we are told to keep this information, it is not only available during the session, but this service the digital recordings are something rather new so we don't know how long bodies will want to have them available. Again, it was COPUOS was ground breaking and

opted for digital recordings now, UNCITRAL also having them, and UNIDO actually decided as of this year, to replace their summary records entirely with digital recordings. So we suppose we should keep this information until we are told not to have it any more and storage is not that big an issue because the original files are graded down to more manageable sizes so if you want to use the full download for example, the files are not huge so they can be easily sent by electronic means. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you very much for that explanation. I very well though that you avoided to say that you will keep it for eternity. Now I will give the floor to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. Hedman (Secretary) Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of points to compliment what Mr. Karbuczky said on the question by Venezuela. Yes, as delegations know, we have also on the website on the Office for Outer Space Affairs, we have dedicated session web pages, and you are familiar with this since many years that for this session for instance, we have a full list of all the documents and we can also download from there. Appearing in all languages CRPs in the language that they have been submitted and there is no plan to delete that function of course. But we have to discuss in the future with the Conference Management Services whether this tool VIC Online when it becomes matter, whether it should take over, and they have inserted a link then on the website of the Office. But this is something that is not of relevance this year, and probably not next year.

I should have however informed you that the Office for Outer Space Affairs is currently in the process of revitalizing and redesigning its entire website to make it more efficient, more user-friendly, and this is something that will take the full year and probably next year we will start seeing a result in that regard and there might be some different changes to the flow of documentation but also coming back to the recordings, yes we saw here that in this tool we have the recordings. You also know that on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs we also have the recordings and there we have recordings also in scripts in English that we decided to do, so for the Legal Subcommittee and for the main committee of COPUOS we have the recordings of open sessions and we have the scripts of open sessions and that remains on the website of the Office of Outer Space Affairs. When it comes to the question posed by the distinguished delegate of Iran on the text of statements, we have as delegations recall, discussed this in the past, some years ago there was an exchange of views on whether text of national statements in plenary should be made available on the website. We couldn't

come to a consensus because this is inherently a political decision by delegations, whether they wish their statements to be publicly, I underline publicly available on the website of the office.

I would tell you that when we receive a national statement right before it is going to be delivered, we scan the statement so that we internally have a scanned version in our common drive and that is for the purpose of the Secretariat, drafting the report, having to go back and check the statements and also for the purpose of the interpreters. so it is quite easy for the Secretariat to put statements online, on the website, but I underline this is a decision that delegations have to take because the statements belong to the various national delegations. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the Secretary to the Committee and would like to ask you whether there are any further questions. If this is not the case we thank again the Chief of Conference Management Services for joining us, presenting us the tool and congratulate you again on this very useful device making life and work of the delegates much easier. Thank you very much.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3 p.m. At that time, we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 9, capacity-building in space law, and of agenda item 10, review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 14, proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee.

We will hear one technical presentation this afternoon, by a representative of China entitled "United Nations/China/APSCO Workshop on Space law: An invitation".

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule? Yes, the United States.

Mr. Hodgkins (United States of America) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a question on agenda item 14, when we take this up this afternoon. Can we get an indication as to what we'll be discussing? Will there be a conference room paper submitted by the delegation of Germany as indicated yesterday. How should we be preparing for this agenda item and will there be something new for us to look at. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) Thank you United States, as I indicated, I would intend to discuss the

further procedure on agenda item 12 and I pass to the German delegation for information on the current proposal.

Mr. Wennholz (Germany) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and thank you to the distinguished delegate of the United States. We are indeed working on a conference paper which will not be distributed today but in the course of tomorrow, so the paper would be on the table tomorrow, not for this afternoon. Thank you.

Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Germany, I see no more questions. Finally, I would like to inform delegates after the conclusion of our meeting this afternoon, starting at 6:30 p.m., the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) will host an evening seminar, followed by a reception, on the theme "Earth Observation Data as the Source and Keeper of Regulation". The seminar and reception will be held at the ESPI premises at Schwarzenbergerplatz 6, with entrance on Zaunergasse 1-3, in the 3rd district here in Vienna. Invitations have been distributed last week in the pigeon holes.

Finally I would like to announce that document L.288 is now being distributed in the pigeon holes. The meeting is adjourned until 3 p.m. this afternoon.