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

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675th Meeting  
Wednesday, 11 June 2014, 10.00 a.m.  
Vienna

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*Chairman: Mr. Y. Horikawa (Japan)*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.09 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives. I am pleased and honoured to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and I now declare open the 57<sup>th</sup> session and the 675<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all aware, the Committee will shortly elect its Chair for a two-year term in accordance with the agreement reached at the fifty-sixth session of the Committee.

With the Committee's permission, I will continue to preside over this meeting until the new Chair has been duly elected, at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair.

However, before commencing with the election of its officers, the Committee should adopt its agenda for this session.

**Adoption of the agenda**

We shall now proceed with the adoption of the agenda.

Distinguished delegates, you have before you, for your approval and adoption, the provisional agenda for the session, contained in document L/AC.105/L.289. This provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreement reached at the fifty-sixth session of the Committee in 2013 and it was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/75 of 11 December 2013.

An indicative schedule of work is set out in the Annex to the provisional agenda. Please note that the annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda for adoption by the Committee and are included only to assist delegations.

We shall now proceed with the adoption of the agenda itself.

If I hear no objections, may I take that the agenda is adopted?

*It is so decided.*

**Election of officers (agenda item 3)**

Distinguished delegations, I would now like to turn to agenda item 3, Election of officers.

I wish to inform delegations that in paragraph 27 of its resolution 68/75 of 11 December 2013, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, at their respective sessions in 2014, should elect their officers nominated for the period 2014-2015.

Accordingly, Azzedine Oussedik of Algeria would be elected to the office of Chair of the Committee, Diego Stacey Moreno of Ecuador would be elected to the office of First Vice-Chair of the Committee, and Samir Salim Mohammed Raouf of Iraq and Xinmin Ma of China would be elected to the office of Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Committee for 2014-2015 respectively.

At its fifty-first session earlier this year, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee elected Elöd Both of Hungary as Chair of the Subcommittee for a two-year term of office.

At its fifty-third session earlier this year, the Legal Subcommittee elected Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany as Chair of the Subcommittee for a three-year term of office.

May I take it that the Committee endorses the election of the officers of its Subcommittees for the period 2014-2015?

I see no objection.

*It is so decided.*

Unless there is any objection, may I take it that the Committee do wish to elect Mr. Azzedine Oussedik of Algeria as its Chair for the two-year term starting from this session?

I see no objection.

*It is so decided.*

I warmly congratulate Mr. Azzedine Oussedik of Algeria on his election.

Before I invite my dear colleague to assume the Chair, allow me just to make a few remarks as the outgoing Chair of the Committee.

Distinguished delegates, over the last two years, I had the privilege to serve this Committee as your Chair, together with my First Vice-Chair, Mr. Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal, and the Second Vice-Chair, Mr. Piotr Wolanski of Poland. To work with you, distinguished delegates, was very rewarding and I am pleased to note that we together made significant progress in our work in a consensual manner.

First, I would like to remind you that last year we celebrate the historic fiftieth anniversary of the first space flight performed by a woman, Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. It would provide us the great opportunity to look into the contribution of women in advancing the peaceful use of outer space and the role of women in the overall scientific and related socioeconomic field of societal development.

I am very pleased to witness this era to see beautiful and meaningful work done by women in the various fields.

When I assumed the Chair of this important Committee two years ago, I had proposed three major pillars of work where we could take further steps in global governance for space research and utilization targeting for the next 50 years of COPUOS: to strengthen the role of the Committee and its Subcommittees as a unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space science and technology and long-term space utilization for the peaceful use of outer space; to promote greater dialogue between the Committee and regional and interregional cooperation and coordination mechanisms in space activities for sustainable development; and to stimulate the further advancement of space science and technology and their applications for the benefit of all humankind.

Looking back at the last two years, I am gratified to say that we could make significant progress under these pillars. I hope that these will continue to be well considered in further deliberations at COPUOS.

I would like to mention a few achievements of the Committee among many worthy accomplishments during the last two years.

One, we have made concrete and noteworthy advancement in the discussion of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities which is one of the most important topics at the Scientific and

Technical Subcommittee. I sincerely respect the excellent leadership of Dr. Peter Martinez for making a large step forward for this topic.

Let me also remind you that the General Assembly last year adopted the resolution on recommendations on national space legislation, the admirable result of the Legal Subcommittee. I consider this such a remarkable achievement. I am respectful for Professor Irmgard Marboe for her significant contributions.

One of the extraordinary events in the year was the fall of the meteorite or asteroid in Russia. Accelerated by the impact of this rather shocking event, the Committee last year endorsed the recommendation for an international response to the near-Earth object impacts left. Here, I have to thank Mr. Sergio Camacho for his devotion.

I am also well contented to note that the Office for Outer Space Affairs is actively taking part in the substantive contribution of the United Nations system to the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and in the post-2015 Development Agenda process.

The Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee have also made important moves towards a concerted consideration of the role of space science and technology applications in socioeconomic development in the context of meeting the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference and in the post-2015 Development Agenda process.

There are too many individuals that I would like to mention to express my appreciation. Therefore, let me reiterate that it has been such a privilege and pleasure for me to have had the opportunities to interact with the delegates and representatives of member States and I have nothing but gratitude about your continuous support for advancing the discussions at our every meeting.

Since I chose to become a candidate for the Chair of COPUOS five years ago, I had the honour to attend every COPUOS meeting including the meetings of the Subcommittees. I also have attended many conferences of regional mechanisms such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, ALC, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF, and the Space Conference of the Americas, ECA.

So during the last five years, I travelled more than 40 times to the countries outside Japan. The

number of symposiums and seminars attended counts more than 90 in total, allowing me to outreach COPUOS activities, both internally and externally.

All progress and improvement in our common work would not be possible without the excellent support and guidance of the Secretariat during our sessions.

I would, therefore, together with my Bureau colleagues, like to express my deep appreciation to the Secretariat for all your efforts and dedication. Thank you.

Concluding my remarks, as the outgoing Chair, I hope I pledge to continue to work for advancing COPUOS activities, carrying on the three pillars I have proposed as your Chair. I believe that cooperation among member States will further strengthen in the future. From now, as a past Chair of COPUOS, I will support the incoming Chair to best I am able to.

Thank you all again for your support during my chairmanship.

I would now like to invite Mr. Azzedine Oussedik to assume the Chair.

**Mr. A. OUSSEDIK** (Algeria) (Chairman): Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives, I would like to thank all member States of the Committee for electing me for the post of Chair of the Committee for the period 2014-2015 and for the confidence that you have placed in me in furthering the work of the Committee. I would like to assure you of my commitment to the work of the Committee.

I am honoured to assume this important function which was successfully fulfilled by my predecessor, Mr. Yasushi Horikawa of Japan. Under his Bureau members, Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal and Piotr Wolanski of Poland, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to the election of the other officials of the Committee, namely the First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur for the period 2014-2015.

Unless there are any objections, may I take it that the Committee elects Diego Stacey Moreno of Ecuador as First Vice-Chair and Samir Salim Mohammed Raouf of Iraq and Xinmin Ma of China as Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Committee for 2014-2015 respectively, starting from this session?

I see no objections.

*It is so decided.*

I extend my warmest congratulations on their election and invite Mr. Diego Stacey Moreno and Mr. Samir Salim Mohammed Raouf to take their seats at the podium.

I would like to inform the Committee that I have received a request from the following delegations seeking permission to attend the current session of the Committee as observers: Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Luxembourg, Israel, the Holy See, Oman, Panama, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the United Arab Emirates and the European Union.

I would, therefore, like to suggest that in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations and observers to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate. That is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decisions of the Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy that we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

*It is so decided.*

I would also like to inform the Committee of the application by Luxembourg to become a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The official communication has been duly communicated by the Secretariat to all Permanent Missions of member States of the Committee. Delegations will have before them the application in form of a Conference Room Paper.

I would also like to inform the Committee that an application for permanent observer status with the Committee has been made by the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment. A Conference Room Paper is being made available, containing documentation presented in support the application of that Organization.

The Committee will take action on these requests under agenda item 14, Other Matters, fully this week, on Friday 13 June, in the afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to move to the next item on the agenda and present my statement to the Committee.

### Statement by the Chair

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and representatives, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I am honoured to have been elected Chair of the Committee and I thank you all for your confidence in me. I assure you of my commitment to continuing the successful work of the Committee.

Together with my colleagues in the Bureau, Mr. Diego Stacey Moreno of Ecuador, in his capacity of First Vice-Chair of the Committee, and Mr. Samir Salim Mohammed Raouf of Iraq and Mr. Xinmin Ma of China in their capacity of Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Committee for this and the next year respectively, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Yasushi Horikawa, who skilfully guided the work of the Committee for the past two years, together with his Bureau members for that period, Mr. Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal and Mr. Piotr Wolanski of Poland.

I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for its outstanding preparations for this session. In this regard, I would like to extend my gratitude to Mrs. Mazlan Othman, who retired from the position of Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in December 2013. And I have the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Simonetta Di Pippo as the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. I look forward to working closely with the Secretariat in the coming period.

At the very outset, and in view of the decisions by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/75 of 11 December 2013, I sincerely welcome Belarus and Ghana as the newest member States of the Committee which now brings the membership to 76 States.

I also welcome the Inter-Islamic Network of Space Sciences and Technology, ISNET, as the newest international organization with permanent observer status with the Committee.

Distinguished delegates, our Committee has for many decades made extraordinary achievements in advancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and is continuously serving as a unique platform at the global level in fostering such common efforts.

In 2011, we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight, commemorating the first human space flight performed by Yuri Gagarin, and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee, as manifested by the

General Assembly in its fiftieth anniversary declaration, adopted through resolution 66/71.

In 2013, we celebrated another historic event, the fiftieth anniversary of the space flight performed by a woman, Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, and the tenth anniversary of the first human space flight by China.

I would also like to recall that in 2012, we commemorated the fortieth anniversary of the LANDSAT Programme and the worldwide evolution of remote sensing from space, which was timely considering the Rio+20 Conference held that year.

This year, we recognized the fiftieth anniversary of European cooperation in space and the forty-fifth anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission for the first time, placing humans on the surface of the Moon.

Commemorations of this nature truly bring forward the importance of space exploration, science technology applications and diplomacy.

Distinguished delegates, the Committee is continuously making efforts to promote and increase awareness and capacity-building in the use of space technology applications at the global, regional, interregional and national levels in many critical areas of concern to all humanity. Space tools are multi-faceted and they strongly support the implementation of actions called for in the Global Development Agenda.

As recognized by the General Assembly, our Committee and its two Subcommittees, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, stand at the forefront in bringing the world together in using space science and technology to preserve the Earth and the space environment.

Our Committee and its Subcommittees in that regard serve as a unique platform at the global level for enhancing our efforts to strengthen the role of space tools for sustainable development and to meet the challenge to humanity.

Regional and interregional cooperation in space activities is emphasized and the need for closer coordination between the Committee and other inter-environmental bodies involved in the global development agenda is underscored.

A challenge to our society including that of global climate change and to food security and the global health are interlinked with disasters and we need a holistic approach to those problems and

concerns in order to make sound decisions with long-term effects.

Meeting those challenges would be facilitated by efforts for an increased coordination to ensure a timely and adapted integration of the space-based technology applications of remote sensing, satellites, telecommunications and the global navigation satellite systems. The development of multi-source geospatial data sets in using such technology will also help better address those challenges.

Through our agenda item on space and sustainable development under the item of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee devoted to socioeconomic development in the context of Rio+20 Conference and the post-2015 Development Agenda, we are working towards a common approach to those global processes within the Committee as a rule.

At the same time, we note the need to increase awareness at the global level to fully recognize the importance of space tools and space-derived geospatial information to meet the objectives of the Global Development Agenda.

The General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals is now completing its work on sustainable development goals and the post-2015 Development Agenda is taking shape. In this context, and the building upon the contribution of the Committee to the Rio+20 Conference, as articulated in its report A/AC.105/993, from 2011, the establishment and strengthening of sustainable and space-derived geospatial data infrastructures utilization(?) as a means of implementation of those Development Goals and objectives

Concerted efforts are required to ensure continuous monitoring and assessment of the environment in meeting sustainable development objectives at all levels. It is, therefore, essential to increase the number of countries with enhanced autonomous capabilities to access and use Earth observation and *in situ* geospatial data and information in support of decision-making processes at national, regional and international levels. This includes the development and implementation of associated standards-based infrastructures and the relevant institutional arrangements by means of strengthening capacity, knowledge-sharing and technological cooperation while promoting a multi-sectoral approach.

Distinguished delegates, against this background, international cooperation at regional, interregional and global level, is essential. As an

example, I would like to refer to the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, ALC, particularly its Third Conference, ALC-3, held in Algiers in 2009, which highlighted the importance of establishing a framework for regional cooperation to promote utilization(?) of human and material resources available within African countries, to return to the African concerns regarding appropriation of space tools, using methods as for the African Resource Management Constellation Satellites. This African concern was consolidated by the Mombassa Declaration adopted at the Fourth Conference ALC-4, held in Kenya, in 2011, which recognizes, among others, the institutional(?) contribution of space sciences and technology to the wellbeing of humanity and to the economic, social and future development of Africa in particular and considers that space transcends boundaries and local interests permitting, the development of comprehensive solutions to address common challenges faced by all African countries and recognize that good conduct of space activities is beneficial to all countries and compliance by States and international organizations of the Treaty provisions relating to space should be encouraged.

The African Leadership Conference, therefore, brings to attention the need for African States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to participate actively in the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees and to promote better coordinated African participation in the Committee.

It is of importance that regional and interregional perspectives of international space cooperation involving conferences and mechanisms are being addressed in view of our common efforts to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. I would like to underline the particular role of regional mechanisms in providing platforms for enhanced coordination and cooperation between space-faring nations and emerging space nations and in establishing partnerships between users and providers of space-based services.

In this sense, I recognize the activities and programmes of the European Space Agency and the more recent coordination mechanisms of the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, ALC, which I already mentioned above, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, and the Space Conference of the Americas.

The role of international organizations and other entities in the space field continues to be of major importance to our common endeavour to promote space activities at the national, regional, interregional and global levels. In this context, I would like also to highlight the important role that the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations, play in enhancing cooperative efforts. The Regional Centres have firmly established infrastructures for advanced training in the field of space science and technology and their long-standing education programmes are highly successful, including building upon the scientific curricula developed through the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The latest on GNSS and on space law, likewise the Network of United Nations SPIDER Regional Support Offices around the world caters for regional coordination efforts in the area of disaster risk reduction. We gain invaluable support by many other efforts and through support given to the Committee and its Subcommittees by our Permanent Observer Organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental in cooperation with our members through projects, conferences, seminars, symposiums and panel discussions for the benefit of our common work.

The International Astronautical Congress, which provides a platform for fundamental dialogue between all stakeholders in the space field, both at governmental and private sector level, was last year successfully hosted by China. I look forward to this year's IAC, to be hosted by Canada.

I would also like to mention that the International Space Exploration Forum that was held in Washington in January this year, hosted by the United States in collaboration with the International Academy of Astronautics, IAA. A large number of States attended the 2014 Forum and emphasized the importance of the further advancement of exploration and utilization of outer space for the benefit of humankind.

The role of COPUOS was emphasized particularly in the fields of ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and protecting the Earth from asteroids and other potentially hazardous objects.

With all this in mind, we should look further into further promoting mutual dialogue between our Committee and mechanisms for regional, interregional and international cooperation in space activities for the benefit of global development and in partnership with various actors in the space arena.

Distinguished delegates, the General Assembly in 2013 adopted resolution 68/74 of 11 December 2013 entitled "Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space" and which is the result of a multi-year programme effort under the dedicated Working Group of the Legal Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Irmgard Marboe of Austria.

Through its resolution 68/75, the General Assembly welcomed the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat which is the result of a multi-year programme of work under the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects under the chairmanship of Mr. Sergio Camacho Lara of Mexico.

These are the most recent examples of permanent results of the work of the Committee and in particular its two subsidiary bodies.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee made considerable achievements earlier this year and through the work of our two Subcommittees we are demonstrating the importance of making concrete progress in terms of long-term sustainability of outer space activities and in enhancing the capacity of States in promoting economic, social and cultural development with the use of space tools and by enhancing the understanding of regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect.

I would, in particular, like to congratulate Mr. Elöd Both of Hungary and Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany on their skilful guidance of the work of the Subcommittees. Likewise, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Dadhwal of India, Mr. Sam Harbison of the United Kingdom and Peter Martinez of South Africa, Mrs. Satsuki Aoki of Japan, Mr. Jean-François Mayence of Belgium and Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil for their excellent leadership this year of the respective Working Groups of the Subcommittees.

Many other experts in science technology law and policy, including the co-Chairs of the Expert Groups under the Long-Term Sustainability item, have offered their skills and time to assist our Committee and Subcommittees in the processes leading to concrete results. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all of them for their extraordinary contributions in advancing our common endeavour to continuously manifest the unique role played by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Distinguished delegates, let me take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat of our Committee and its subsidiary bodies for outstanding support to our common endeavours. I am again pleased to note the activities undertaken by the Office in its capacity as Executive Secretariat to the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellites System, ICG, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and United Nations SPIDER, continue to play important roles in many areas critical to our work. I am also pleased to note the continuous commitment by the Office in capacity-building efforts in space law and policy.

Distinguished delegates, in concluding, it is important for our Committee, as a whole, to continue assessing its role and its work in the continuously challenging environment that surrounds the peaceful uses of outer space with an increasing number of space-faring and non-space-faring countries and actors participating in space activities. We need to look into ways and means of advancing our work and achieve concrete and tangible results in addressing the ongoing global process leading towards the establishment of sustainable development goals and in meeting the post-2015 Development Agenda.

We have a hectic programme before us at this session and we have a series of exciting side events, exhibitions and receptions that will give us all an outstanding platform from dialogue on important topics before us.

With your cooperation and valuable contributions, I am confident in the success of this session. I thank you all for your kind attention.

Distinguished delegates, as in the past, the indicative schedule of work annexed to the agenda, which was adopted by the Committee earlier this morning, will be followed in a flexible manner as much as possible and can be adjusted as we proceed with our work.

General Assembly resolution 32/71 requires that members of its United Nations body be informed at the beginning of its session of the resources available to it.

I would like to inform you of the arrangements made for this session of this Committee.

Assigned conference meeting rooms, Board Room D, and conference rooms C-5 and C-6, and meeting rooms C0727 and C0739 on the seventh floor in this building and the meeting rooms C0417,

C0419, C0427, C0429, C0431, C0433 and C0435 on the fourth floor, as well as meeting room E0953, simultaneous interpretation, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and sound recordings will be provided for the plenary meetings in the original language and in English.

Please note that in the annex to its resolution 56/242, the General Assembly adopted guidelines on limiting the duration of meetings including the following. Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, namely from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on working days. Intergovernmental bodies should undertake a review of their meeting patterns under the reporting cycles and in coordination with Conference Services, adjust their meeting requests for subsequent sessions accordingly.

In addition to the above, financial and capacity constraints in Conference Services with a trend of increasing demand for both meeting and documentation services. The existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload. There is a need to adhere strictly to guidelines on providing interpretation meeting and documentation services. In particular, at ad hoc meetings, informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours on non-working days will not be serviced. The Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficiency measures such as increased outsourcing, fully electronic document processing, reduced overtime and nightshifts and intensive editorial report drafting assistance.

Therefore, close coordination and cooperation between delegations, the substantive Secretariat and the Conference Services is even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Services will do their best to deliver to us as they did in the past. With timely submission of in-session document, they will deliver as much documentation in all six official languages as possible. However, due to the constraints already mentioned, some documentation may only be available for the afternoon closing session, unedited or in English only, depending on how late it was submitted for processing.

On your behalf, I would like to assure the Secretariat that they count on the usual good cooperation and understanding of delegations in keeping submission deadlines. I trust with that we will bring this session to a successful closing.

I would also like to remind delegates of the General Assembly's request to cut down on the length

of reports issued by the Secretariat, including the reports of intergovernmental bodies, since the Secretariat continues to be pressured to further reduce the length of our reports.

Measures will be taken in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary-General towards achieving this. However, I give you the assurances that this will be done without affecting quality of content of the report and, therefore, request your understanding and support in this matter.

Delegates are requested to turn mobile telephones off when entering the conference room. Mobile phones switched on and on standby seriously interfere with the sound system in conference rooms and hence affect the quality of interpretation and sound recordings. I strongly urge you to please adhere to this request. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, all delegations have been provided this morning with a draft list of the scheduling of technical presentations during this session of the Committee. The list of scheduling of technical presentations will be closed by the adjournment of our plenary meeting tomorrow morning. Delegations should provide the Secretariat with any updates to that list by no later than 6.00 p.m. this afternoon.

I would also like to remind delegations that speaking notes for technical presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.

Distinguished delegates, I have received a request from the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Mr. Peter Martinez of South Africa, for the Working Group to be able to meet during this current session of the Committee, benefiting from interpretation services. This is in line with the recommendation made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-first session earlier this year.

If I see no objections, may I take it that the Committee agrees to give time to the Working Group to meet during this current session of the Committee?

I see no objections.

*It is so decided.*

Meetings of the Working Group will be duly announced as they are scheduled.

Distinguished delegates, during the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability

of Outer Space Activities also noted that its Expert Group B on Space Debris, Space Operations and Tools to Support Space Situational Awareness would meet on the margins of the current session of the Committee with a view to finalizing its working report. The meetings of the Expert Group B are planned to be held today, tomorrow and on Friday and the times and locations of those meetings can be found on the monitors in the Vienna International Centre.

Distinguished delegates, at this current session, as mandated by the General Assembly, delegations have before them resolution 68/50 of 5 December 2013 on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as well as the related report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, contained in document A/68/189.

General Assembly resolution 68/50, in its operative paragraph 3, decided in order to further advance 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. The Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament for consideration as appropriate.

There is a recent end report were duly made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-first session and to the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session.

Delegations are invited to share their views on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts accordingly.

As was agreed, by the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities at the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Working Group will also discuss the report, specifically with a view to identifying interlinkages with the work under way in the Working Group.

Distinguished delegates, I am pleased to inform delegates and observers about this year's great variety of contributions by member States in terms of exhibitions. I would now like to cordially invite everybody to attend those exhibitions in the Rotunda and in the Permanent Space Exhibition of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the Ground Floor.

Algeria is co-hosting an exhibition on African Space Activities with South Africa in the Rotunda.

China is donating a model of the Chang'e-3 Lunar Model to the Permanent Space Exhibition.

Poland is donating a painting of Copernicus to the Vienna International Centre and a model of its satellite Lem-Brite constellation to the Permanent Space Exhibition.

And the Russian Federation is hosting an exhibition on GLONASS in the Permanent Space Exhibition.

### **General exchange of views (agenda item 5)**

The next item on our agenda is the general exchange of views, item 5.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of item 5 of our agenda, General Exchange of Views. As a general guideline, statements under this item should last no longer than 10 minutes.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of GRULAC, His Excellency Ambassador Hernán Estrada Román of Nicaragua.

**Mr. H. ESTRADA ROMÁN** (Nicaragua) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman and good morning everyone.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of GRULAC, I would like to express to Mr. Azzedine Oussedik my most sincere congratulations on his election as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its fifty-seventh session and to offer him our support and cooperation to achieve the aims that we have established. Please allow me to say that we are convinced that under his leadership our work will culminate successfully.

As a regional group, we are pleased to see a representative of our region, Ambassador Diego Stacey Moreno of Ecuador, occupying the role of First Vice-Chairman of this Committee and we also congratulate him and wish him every success.

We would like to welcome Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo who is now Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. We reiterate our congratulations and welcome to Dr. Di Pippo and wish her every success in this new task of great responsibility. As a regional group, we hope to count on her cooperation and comprehensive cooperation in coming years to give greater impetus to activities to the Office for Outer Space Affairs activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing this session and in intersessionals with the maintenance of the website and all the documentation.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC acknowledges the common interest of all of humanity and the sovereign right of all States to participate in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. We are convinced that the benefits that this can bring to humankind and we repeat our adherence and respect for the principles and agreements that should govern States activities in the exploration and use of outer space, specifically: (a) the principle of access to outer space on an equal basis for all States without any discrimination whatever the degree of scientific, technical or economic development. In this sense, we support regional activities to strengthen the universal nature of the use and exploration of outer space as well as its fair and rational use; (b) the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies which cannot be the object of appropriation by States or by sovereignty claims or use or any other occupation; (c) the non-militarization of outer space and, as something that belongs to the whole of mankind, its strict use to improve living conditions and peace among the peoples of our planet as well as the principle of not locating weapons and preventing an arms race in outer space; and (d) regional cooperation in the development of space activities as established by the United Nations General Assembly Plenary.

The great progress in space activities for human development and the use of space technology in areas as widespread science, the environment, medicine and education lead us to stress the importance of international interregional cooperation to bring progress to all countries, especially developing countries through capacity-building programmes and activities and the scientific and technological fields.

GRULAC stresses that preventing an arms race in outer space and the banning of locating or using weapons that would avoid great danger to international peace and security.

In this context, we underscore the essential importance of respective existing agreements on the limitation of weapons and on outer space disarmament as well as the prevailing legal regime regarding the use of outer space.

We should be aware that the greater use of outer space by an increasing number of actors could generate unforeseeable impacts on the space

environment. Serious threats such as the arms race, the location of nuclear weapons and problems stemming from the saturation of the geostationary orbit and space debris are elements which could affect the sustainability of space activities. In this sense, GRULAC acknowledges the importance of the long-term sustainability of space activities and their analysis within COPUOS. The study of this cannot and should not in any circumstances become an instrument for countries who have traditionally managed space technology to establish restrictions on other countries who, in their legitimate right, aspire to develop and use space technology as a fundamental instrument to improve the living conditions of their peoples.

GRULAC also acknowledges the important work of this Committee in promoting greater interaction between the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees and to guarantee that space activities take place within a suitable legal framework which will promote understanding, acceptance and the real implementation of existing legal instruments codified within the United Nations. This interaction is essential to perfect the international space legal framework and to establish the legal liability of States in activities in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, international cooperation in outer space activities is of great importance for countries in my region and we believe it should be strengthened within COPUOS. GRULAC truly believes that we need to promote international, an active cooperation as well as strengthening interregional cooperation as essential pillars in the use of outer space. This also enables us to exchange knowledge and best practices and to build national and regional capacities.

International and regional cooperation in outer space activities should be one of the priorities of this Committee and it should generate synergies and create awareness of the benefits that space science and technology can contribute to sustainable development.

This time, GRULAC would like to stress the importance of the following activities and programmes related to the peaceful use of outer space. These took place in Latin America and the Caribbean over the last year.

(a) Workshop on the Use of Space Science and Technology to Prevent and Respond to Disasters in Mesoamerica from 19-22 November 2013 Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, organized by the Regional Centre

for Space Technology and Science of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Mesoamerican Centre for Theoretical Physics, the Safe World Foundation, the National Institute for Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics, the National Institute for Space Research, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the Co-Chairs of the Capacity Development and Data Development of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites;

(b) The technical course “Remote Sensing and Digital Processing of Satellite Images for Floods”, which took place in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, from 13-17 May 2013, organized by United Nations SPIDER with the support of the National Committee for Emergencies in the Dominican Republic, with the participation of 30 representatives from 15 ministries, government institutions and departments of other institutions, as well as experts from other countries in the region;

(c) The Third International School for Advanced Training in Panoramic Epidemiology in Argentina, organized by the National Committee for Space Activities, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. This initiative is aimed to provide a response to the needs of epidemiological specialists and to train them in the use of space technology tools which they can use to generate early warnings and to monitor outbreaks of epidemics in the region. The Third International School for Advanced Training in Panoramic Epidemiology took place at the Institute for Space Studies Mario Gulich at the Space Centre in Córdoba, Argentina, from 27 May to 7 June 2013. There were 35 epidemiological specialists and experts and researchers from 10 countries from the union of South American nations, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. This training contributes to the development of regional projects to use space information for public health;

(d) The initiative of the Republic of Colombia to create the Presidential Programme for Colombian Space Development. Its aim is to lead, coordinate, strengthen and encourage space development in Colombia and its integration on to the international scene. Because of this, GRULAC would like to request technical cooperation from COPUOS to develop policies and institutional organization for Colombia;

(e) We would also like to stress another example of regional cooperation in the course “Space Project Management” that took place in Buenos

Aires, Argentina, from 5-9 May 2014, under the leadership of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, through the Bolivarian Agency for Space Activities and in cooperation with the National Committee of Space Activities of Argentina. This training took into account three modules on project management, risks and insurance, space applications, United Nations space treaties, and international cooperation, among other things. It is hoped to organize a second edition in other parts of Argentina and to hold the second international course in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in July this year.

GRULAC calls upon the Chairman for the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to look on these activities in our region in a positive way.

Mr. Chairman, the agenda of this fifty-seventh session of the Committee includes subjects of great importance for development, such as space and water, climate change and society. In this context, we must mention the impact of natural disasters on developing countries. Therefore, they are a source of great concern. In this context, GRULAC underscores the increasing role of space tools to prevent, manage and mitigate natural disasters.

On behalf of GRULAC, I would like to reiterate our willingness and cooperation to contribute to a constructive and fruitful debate and hope that the work of this session will conclude successfully. We will, of course, be giving our opinions on different agenda items over the coming days.

Thank you.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the African Group, Mr. Mohammed Slaoui from Morocco.

**Mr. M. SLAOUI (Morocco):** Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the African Group, I would like to congratulate you, as well as the members of the Bureau, on your election as the Bureau of the Committee for the biennium 2014-2015 and assure you of our full support.

I wish also to express our appreciation to the Chair and the members of the outgoing Bureau for their able leadership, as well as the newly appointment Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Simonetta Di Pippo, and her staff for their dedication. In this context, I would like also to

express our gratitude to her predecessor, Ms. Mazlan Othman.

The African Group welcomes Belarus and Ghana as new member States of the COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, the Group attaches great importance in the preservation and sustainability of space activities to ensure that their spin-off continues to benefit to all nations. In this regard, the Group is supportive of the efforts that have been made by the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Martinez from South Africa. In this regard, we are looking forward to participating in the consultations to developing a consensus-based set of guidelines. We would be also supportive, if necessary, of an extension of the Working Plan of the Working Group.

Mindful of the importance of space science and technology and their applications to the social, economic and cultural development, the African Group welcomes the efforts of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to reflect their contribution in addressing the post-2015 Development Agenda.

In order to achieve this goal, the African Group stresses the importance of dissemination of knowledge and technology transfer through bilateral channels as well as in reinforcing multilateral cooperation with an increased role for the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The African Group notes with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, UNSPIDER, to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters by using space technology-based solutions and calls member States to reinforce its capabilities.

Mr. Chairman, many African countries are increasingly oriented towards space activities and the development of national capacity-building. In this regard, we welcome the organization of an exhibition on space activities here, with the participation of African countries, that takes place at the United Nations premises on the occasion of this session of the Committee. It provides an opportunity for African countries to showcase their space capabilities and future plans for space activities.

Indeed, there is an increasing awareness that space applications are an important tool that can improve the daily lives of all African citizens. Against this background, the lack of funding and technical

capacity are considered as a challenge that hinders the efforts by African States in pursuing space activities.

The need for enhanced international cooperation in the field of space is also considered as a necessity. In this regard, the efforts of COPUOS are paramount to promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space.

The African Group welcomes also the outcome of the African Leadership Conferences in the field of space law, in particular the call for accession of the African countries to adhere to the existing United Nations treaties, the development of national policies and regulatory frameworks, fostering closer cooperation and dialogue between universities and institutions who have established space law programmes, in particular for the benefit of the students and professionals in the public and private sector and for promoting overall capacity-building in space law in Africa for which regional coordination and cooperation could play an important role.

The African Group encourages the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee to continue their efforts to develop the existing legal framework were required including through soft law, taking into account technological development, the expansion of space activities and emergence of new space actors, provided that the principles governing exploration and use of outer space set out below are not undermined.

In this context, the African Group welcomes the efforts of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space under the leadership and the chairmanship of Jean-François Mayence of Belgium.

Mr. Chairman, the African Group stresses the importance of the international legal framework that allows equal exploration of outer space, based on the principles of non-appropriation and peaceful uses of outer space, in conformity with the five United Nations treaties governing space activities, and in particular, the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and the Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Regarding the geostationary orbit, the African Group considers that it is a limited resource and decides it is at risk of becoming saturated. Its use should be streamlined within priority to activities with long-term perspectives contributing towards the attainment of the post-2015 Development Agenda, while taking into account the conditions of equality

of all countries irrespective of their current space capabilities.

The African Group stresses also the importance of the definition and the delimitation of outer space in order to prevent and reduce any possible disputes among States related to space activity. This definition and delimitation should be considered in an intergovernmental framework, in particular within the Legal Subcommittee of the COPUOS, taking into consideration the scientific and technological progress. In this context, the African Group welcomes the efforts of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space under the chairmanship of Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil.

The proliferation of space debris is a matter of concern for the African Group due to its consequences on the future of exploration and use of outer space. Therefore, the mitigation of space debris and the limitation (delimitation?) of their creation should be among the priorities of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. It is against this background that challenges related to space activities, in particular space debris, should be addressed in such a way that it will not jeopardize the development of space capabilities of developing countries. And in this regard, the Group encourages all States to consider voluntary implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. In this context, the Group welcomes the Compendium prepared under the co-chairmanship of Canada and the Czech Republic.

Special attention should be paid to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The potential risks of collisions and accidental re-entry in the Earth atmosphere of space objects using nuclear power sources and their consequences should be addressed accordingly.

In order to ensure a safe use of nuclear power sources, the African Group considers it important that the space actors with proven capabilities in this field, should make available the information and know-how on measures taken to ensure safety of the space objects using nuclear power sources.

And finally, regarding the organizational matters, the African Group calls upon the streamlining and improving the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. In this regard, it is the considered view of the Group that the work of the Legal Subcommittee should be reinforced by giving priority to the substantive issues aimed at strengthening the international legal framework. On

the other hand, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should also give more importance to the substantive issues and avoid any commercial-oriented presentations. In this regard, the shortcut(?) plays a role in ensuring that these presentations are in line with the mandate of the COPUOS.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the African Group for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Greece.

**Ms. A. PAPATHANASSIOU** (Greece): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As the current Greek Chair of the Council of the European Union, I would like to kindly ask the Head of the European Union delegation, Ambassador Zanathy, to deliver the European Union statement.

Thank you.

**Ms. G. M. MARTIN ZANATHY** (European Union): Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

First of all, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for chairing the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are confident that under your able guidance, the Committee will achieve valuable results.

The European Union would like to congratulate Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo for her designation as the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and we wish her success in her activities.

Space is a driver for economic growth and innovations for the benefit of all people. Space activities and technologies contribute to tackling major challenges such as climate change, scarce resources, health and aging and both the competitiveness of industry well beyond the space sector, thereby contributing to job creation and socioeconomic development in almost all economic areas worldwide.

In the European Union, we have developed strong and unique space capacities which place us among the world-class space leaders allowing us to take part in major space endeavours.

Mr. Chairman, key priorities for the European Space Policy lie in the area of global navigation and Earth observation with the involvement of the

European Union in two flagship programmes, Galileo and Copernicus. The European Union co-funds the development of the Galileo Programme which is Europe's initiative for a state-of-the-art global satellite navigation system, providing a highly accurate guaranteed global positioning service under civilian control.

In 2013, the European Union adopted a new regulation for the European Global Navigation Satellite System, GNSS Programmes, for the period 2014-2020, with a corresponding new financial framework.

In addition, most recently the amendment of the regulation setting up the European GNSS Agency was adopted.

On 22 March 2014, the satellite Astra-5B was successfully launched. It carries a hosted L-Band payload for EGNOS, the European Union's European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service. To date, more than 100 precision landing procedures using EGNOS in the European Union have been published.

With regard to Galileo, the European Union expects to launch four satellites this year. The Galileo Satellite Navigation System will allow improved services ranging from, *inter alia*, more precise in-car navigation, effective road transport management, search and rescue services, more secure banking transactions, as well as reliable electricity supply, which all rely heavily on satellite navigation technologies. In fact, it is estimated that six to seven per cent of European Union GDP relies on positioning navigation and timing services provided by GNSS.

Galileo will provide new business opportunities in a wide variety of applications in many sectors of the economy, in the European Union and worldwide. For this purpose, a GNSS Service Centre was inaugurated in Madrid on 14 May 2013. It allows users to be informed regularly of the Galileo constellation status.

Mr. Chairman, Copernicus is the long-term European Union Earth Observation Programme initiated in 1998. It is built on partnerships between the European Union and its member States, the European Space Agency and other relevant European stakeholders, such as the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites.

Recently, on 24 April 2014, the regulation establishing the Copernicus Programme was

published in the European Union Official Journal and entered into force on 25 April 2014.

Copernicus is already partly operational. The emergency service and the land service are already functioning on an operational basis and the other pre-operational services, such as marine and atmosphere service, will be transitioning to operation in early 2015. The data and products generated by the operational and pre-operational services are already available to the public on the dedicated Copernicus websites. Our Copernicus Data Policy guarantees free and open data access for everyone and, therefore, contributes to the overall aim of bringing benefits of space to humankind.

Moreover, a major milestone was achieved with the successful launch of the first Copernicus Observation Satellite, Sentinel-1A, on 3 April 2014, from Europe's space port in French Guiana. The first images provided by the powerful synthetic aperture radar demonstrate the vital role the satellite will play in the larger civil Earth Observation Programme ever conceived. These images are very promising and will support multiple application domains such as monitoring sea ice for safe navigation, monitoring the evolution of tropical forests, monitoring floods, oil spill detection, vessel detection, and climate change monitoring. The next Copernicus satellites will be launched from 2015 onwards.

Mr. Chairman, in order to mitigate the risk of collisions, it is necessary to identify and monitor satellites and space debris. On 27 May 2014, the European Union adopted a decision establishing a space survey and some tracking, SST Support Framework. This decision will help support the networking and operations of the SSTS owned by some of the European Union member States as well as the European Union Satellite Centre with a view to providing SST services to the European Union member States, the European Union bodies, spacecraft owners and operators and civil protection authorities.

In the future, the SST services of the European Union member States will be better suited to assess the risks of in-orbit collisions, detect and characterize in-orbit fragmentations, break-ups or collisions and assess the risks of the uncontrolled re-entry of space objects and space debris into the Earth's atmosphere.

Mr. Chairman, the European Union is committed to developing an International Code of Conduct for outer space activities in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, offering all

interested United Nations member States the opportunity to participate in the process and share their views. To advance progress on the Code, the European External Action Service has convened three rounds of international open-ended consultations, in Kiev, May 2013, Bangkok, November 2013, and Luxembourg, May 2014. Participants from more than 60 United Nations member States participated in each of these meetings which were conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner. Based on the comments and suggestions received at the consultations, the European External Action Service has prepared three revised versions of the Code and is now prepared to move the process to a final phase. The European Union thus calls on all States to join it in working towards a speedy and successful conclusion of this multilateral process as it considers the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities to be an indispensable contribution to enhancing the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities.

Mr. Chairman, over the last decades, COPUOS has laid down a firm legal basis for all forms of space activities which provides for the application of international law and promotion of international cooperation and understanding in the peaceful uses of outer space to which the European Union and its member States are strongly committed.

We welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 68/74 on recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. This resolution was a result of successful cooperation among the member States of COPUOS.

The European Union supports the restructuring of the agenda and organization of the Legal Subcommittee and notes in this regard the proposal for renewal submitted by Germany and discussed during the fifty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee. We trust that the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will give opportunity to continue the discussion on the proposal with a view to finding consensus during the fifty-fourth Legal Subcommittee in 2015.

We appreciate the work of the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and we are looking forward to its results.

Moreover, we would also like to express our appreciation to the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Peter Martinez, and to the co-Chairs. We

commend the Chair for presenting the revised version of the Guidelines to this session. We look forward to participating actively in the debates on this important subject and support the proposed extension of this Working Group for another year in order to finalize and adopt the Final Report.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the European Union.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Austria, Her Excellency Ambassador Christine Stix-Hackl.

**Ms. C. STIX-HACKL (Austria):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Let me first congratulate you, Mr. Azzedine Oussedik, on your chairmanship of the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are confident that our work during this session will substantially benefit from your, and the newly-elected members of the Bureau, profound experience and that under your professional guidance, the Committee will achieve valuable results. Please be assured of our full support for all your efforts.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the outgoing Chair, Mr. Yasushi Horikawa, who fulfilled his important function with great success.

Furthermore, my delegation would like to warmly welcome the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo. My delegation congratulates her to this challenging function and we wish her all the best for her endeavours. Let me thank her as well as her predecessor, Ms. Othman, and the highly-motivated team for their great work, always open doors and invaluable assistance, including the preparation of this session.

Austria fully aligns itself with the European Union statement and would like to make some additional comments.

As host country of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, it makes us particularly happy to see the membership of COPUOS grow. Therefore, we highly welcome the application of Luxembourg for membership in the Committee, as well as the application of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment for Permanent Observer.

The continuous increase in COPUOS members reaffirms its importance and valuable work in the field of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all humankind.

(a) Mr. Chairman, The agenda of this session reflects again the key challenge we face in addressing the potential contribution of space to our global agenda. Most of our items are marked by the space technologies potential contribution to other agenda sectors, related institutions and policy issues like space and sustainable development, space and water, and space and climate change. Yet there is still work to be done in demonstrating the diverse contributions outer space can offer, particularly in the field of ecosystem management, disaster risk management and even in the fundamentals of human development such as health, urban and rural development and technological progress. Therefore, the high significance of space-based data and information for achieving sustainable development should be appropriately reflected in the Sustainable Development Agenda.

In this regard, we welcome the consideration of marine and coastal ecosystems under agenda item 9, "Space and Sustainable Development". Earth observation data can make visible oil spills, illegal fishing operations and wastewater discharge and thus enable responsible governments and institutions to formulate the needed policies and take action on national and international levels. Therefore, we highly value the free provision of Earth observation data.

The European Union-led initiative "Copernicus: Global Monitoring for Environment and Security" aims at an independent and sustainable access to relevant information based on the combination of satellite data and *in situ* data in the thematic areas of land, ocean, atmosphere monitoring, emergency response, climate change and security. Austria, *inter alia*, focuses on the application of remote sensing for environment and nature protection.

In the context of humanitarian aid, the Austrian Space Applications Programme supports a project called "Earth Observation to Support Humanitarian Operations: Monitoring Population and Natural Resources in Refugee Camps". Population displacement due to armed conflicts, regional crisis or natural disasters often leads to large-scale, highly-dynamic settlements which challenge humanitarian relief operations. Hence, the project aims at developing operational services and products using

Earth observation data to support those humanitarian operations.

Mr. Chairman, Austria is convinced that space-based technologies have a great potential for early warning and response as well as effective relief and rehabilitation efforts to tackle the negative effects of climate change, natural disasters and extreme weather events all around the world. Austria is, therefore, one of the main contributors to the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, shortly called UNSPIDER. This Programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna provides tangible and concrete added-value to communities at risk. In support to the Technical Advisory Missions of UNSPIDER, experts from the Interfaculty Department for Geoinformatics of the University of Salzburg participated in the missions to Kenya and Bhutan this year. The concept and the implementation of these missions strengthen the capability of countries to redress their development agendas with the objective to better predict, cope and manage the adverse impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

Mr Chairman, there is an undeniable context between space activities and the legal environment in which they are carried out. So let me again briefly recall that the Legal Subcommittee dedicated several years of intensive work on the agenda item "National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space" under the able chairmanship of Professor Irmgard Marboe. Finally, last year on 11 December, this work led to the adoption of resolution 68/74 entitled "Recommendations on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space" by the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution perfectly complements the existing General Assembly resolutions relating to specific space matters and ensures the visibility of the work done by COPUOS.

Let me now draw your attention to the low orbit, a place which is widely used for various purposes. The first Austrian satellite BRITE-Austria and TUGSAT-1 and its sister satellite UniBRITE are now in orbit for one and a half years. Both spacecrafts are fulfilling their scientific mission of measuring the brightness variation of massive luminous stars very well.

On the topic of nanosatellites, Graz University of Technology has successfully completed a design study for the European Space Agency on an advanced nanosatellite, called OPS-SAT, to test and

demonstrate in orbit novel operational procedures. The implementation of the spacecraft will start later this year with partners from Austria, Germany, Poland and Denmark. A technical presentation on OPS-SAT will be given by Professor Koudelka of Graz University on Friday, 13 June.

But we would also like to express our deep concern about the increasing threat space debris has on astronauts and objects in space. Therefore, we very much welcome the endeavours of the international community to mitigate the harmful effects of space debris and to set up guidelines and recommendations in order to sustainably manage outer space as a global resource.

Mr Chairman, please let me announce the traditional UN/ESA/Austria Symposium on Space, which will take place in Graz this autumn from 22-24 September. The theme of this year's Symposium concentrates on space science and the United Nations. It will bring together renowned space scientists from around the world to discuss how the United Nations can best contribute to foster international cooperation and capacity-building in the space science domain. The planning meeting will take place in room C0431 tomorrow, 12 June, from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, as the only committee of the United Nations system dealing with international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space, COPUOS and its Subcommittees deserve our full attention and support. Austria believes that the Committee plays a very important role for the exchange of information and confidence-building in the area of outer space activities. It provides the unique opportunity to bring together space-faring nations and non-space-faring nations, State and non-State representatives as well as legal and technical experts on an international basis.

It is obvious that there are many urgent topics and problems to be discussed and addressed with regard to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. It is equally obvious that the best forum to do so is the present Committee with its truly international membership and its pertinent tradition and expertise. Throughout decades, Austria has played an active role in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and has actively supported consensus-building among partners within the COPUOS community. Let me reaffirm Austria's full commitment to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, let me draw your attention to the Austrian Space Exhibition at the Technical Museum Vienna near Schönbrunn Castle. We would be very pleased if some participants found the time to visit the Exhibition during your stay in Vienna.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to the already traditional Austrian COPUOS Heurigen, which will take place next week, on Wednesday, 18 June at 7.00 p.m. at Müllers Heuriger. The delegations will find the invitations in their pigeon holes.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Austria.

And the next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Colombia, His Excellency Ambassador Jaime Alberto Cabal Sanclemente.

**Mr. J. A. CABAL SANCLEMENTE** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Chairman. As this is the first time that I have taken the floor, please allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space for its fifty-seventh session and to offer you the collaboration of my delegation in your work. We are sure that under your leadership, the work of the Committee will be successful.

I would also like to make a special greeting and congratulate the Ambassador of Ecuador, Mr. Diego Stacey Moreno, who is First Vice-Chair of this Committee and wish him every success in his work.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo who has recently become the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. On behalf of the Government of Colombia, I would like to reiterate our congratulations and wish her every success in her work as Director of this very important Office.

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for their work in preparing this session and the timely publication of documents on the Office for Outer Space Affairs' website as this too contributes to the success of our work.

Colombia would like to express its support for GRULAC's statement.

Mr. Chairman, as part of Colombia's commitment to the international community in using

outer space for peaceful purposes and the importance of space development for our country, on 10 January 2014, we deposited the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. This concludes the adhesion process to this important instrument which is now in force for Colombia.

I would also like to inform you that once we have completed the respective domestic procedure, Colombia will deposit the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects and will be finally ratified. In order to include this into our domestic law, Colombia requires the cooperation of other member States of COPUOS to help us with their experience on the implementation of these instruments.

We would like to stress Colombia's commitment to space development as we have now set up a Presidential Programme for Colombia Space Development. Its functions include, among others, promoting and coordinating with the corresponding authorities, compliance with prevailing space law for our country. Apart from this, the Presidential Programme will promote real and potential capacities in Colombia and through international cooperation, it will work to make significant progress in joint projects with other countries in our region to enable us to use space technology to strengthen our nations and contribute to their progress.

As part of the activities of the Presidential Programme, on 17 and 18 July, we will organize the Seminar "International Space Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Latin America", to take place in Bogotá. We hope that other countries from our region with more experience will participate in order to promote strategic alliances for space agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We would also like to stress the work made by the Colombian Space Committee, which has been working since 2006 as a body for consultation, coordination, orientation and planning, in order to direct national policy for the development and implementation of space technology and the coordination of plans, programmes and projects. This proves that our country is making decisive steps in the right direction to have a robust institutional framework to make the best use of and develop the space sector in Colombia.

Mr. Chairman, Colombia truly believes in the principle of cooperation and mutual assistance to guide the exploration and use of outer space for the interest of all humankind. As a result of this, we want

to stress our intention to continue in our pursuit of establishing mechanisms for international cooperation in which can help interested countries in knowledge transfer, geospatial technology, research or management in the event of national disasters based on space systems, among others.

Finally, on behalf of Colombia, I would like to reiterate our willingness to work towards a productive debate so that the work of this session can conclude successfully.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of China, His Excellency Mr. Jingye Chang.

**Mr. J. CHANG (China):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to congratulate you as well as other members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that under the outstanding leadership of you and other members of the Bureau, the current session of COPUOS will be a complete success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Yasushi Horikawa, Chairman for the previous two sessions for his hard work.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Madam Di Pippo on her appointment as the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Madam Di Pippo is a prominent woman scientist in the field of outer space with not only rich experiences but also remarkable academic achievements. It is our sincere hope that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, under her guidance, will make greater contributions to the peaceful use of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, humankind has been making unremitting efforts to explore outer space. In December 2013, China successfully launched Chang'e 3, which achieved soft landing on the lunar surface and completed the planned tasks for scientific exploration. This represents a substantial progress in China's space undertaking and constitutes China's important contribution to lunar exploration and application. Furthermore, it is an important move for China to step into the deep space exploration. On this occasion, I feel privileged to inform you that the Chinese Government will donate the life-sized Yutu Moon Rover to the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

This will be the first Moon Rover model on display at the United Nations. The donation ceremony will take place at noon on the 13th. Everyone is cordially invited to the event.

Mr. Chairman, over the past year, China has made significant progress in satellite application, manned space exploration and the development of the Beidou System. The space technologies are widely applied in meteorology, ocean, disaster mitigation and prevention and environmental monitoring. From 2013 to date, China has conducted a total of 16 launches and sent 22 spacecrafts into space including the successful launch of the first high-resolution Earth observation system satellite, Gaofen-1. In June 2013, China successfully conducted the Shenzhou-10 Manned Space Mission.

At present, the manned space programme has entered the stage of space station development and construction. In the future, China's space station will be used as a platform for extensive cooperation with other States. Regarding the Beidou Navigation System, since providing regional service in December 2012, extensive cooperation has been carried out on the system in transportation, tourism, education, training and system monitoring and evaluation. In 2015, China will launch the new-generation navigation satellites and start the third step networking development of the Beidou System.

Mr. Chairman, by upholding the purpose of benefiting the whole humankind, the Chinese Government has actively carried out international cooperation while developing its own space undertaking and shared the benefits from outer space exploration and application. In September 2013, China successfully organized the 64<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress. China's Vice-President, Li Yuanchao attended and addressed the Congress. Over 3,700 delegates from 74 countries participated in the Congress, setting a record for the number of participants and chiefs of space administrations.

Afterwards, China successively organized important events such as the Space Technology Initiative Workshop, the Second Asia-Oceania Space Weather Alliance Workshop, the Thirty-First Meeting of the Charter on Space and Major Disasters, the Thirty-Second IADC and International Space Exploration Coordination Group. Experts and scholars in the field of outer space were invited to Beijing and exchange technical experiences in space technology, explore the future development of the space undertaking and jointly meet the new challenges in outer space exploration.

In addition, in this coming November, the Chinese Government will co-organize a Workshop on Space Law in Beijing with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and APSCO. Everyone will be cordially invited to the event.

Regarding the United Nations Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, to be set up at Beihang University, China is actively moving forward with the preparation and seeking for its speedy launch and operation. We welcome the interested States' active participation in the Centre's management and training.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the disaster mitigation and prevention efforts. In 2013, China signed a Cooperation Agreement between APSCO and CNSA on Satellite Remote Sensing Data, undertaking to provide free Chinese remote-sensing satellite data to the APSCO member States at times of major natural disasters.

We also provide active support to the UNSPIDER Beijing Office by jointly providing personnel training, capacity-building, data-sharing and technical services with a view to improving the States' capability for disaster mitigation with space technology within the region.

Mr. Chairman, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is the focal issue in the field of outer space. China has always been an active participant in the relevant effort. We believe that the formulation of the relevant guide document should take equal participation as the principle and should be guided by the basic principles of outer space law. It should be based on peaceful application, take cooperation and win-win as the objective, put the concerns of the States into perspective and promote the continuous development of space technologies and application capabilities.

Mr. Chairman, humankind has been active in outer space for over six decades. There has been increasing challenges to outer space security. China has always been opposed to weaponization and an arms race in outer space. We stand for building confidence measures in outer space, increase trust and reduce misjudgement. At the same time, we are committed to negotiating with all parties on reaching international treaties that will prevent weaponization and an arms race in outer space with a view to fundamentally eliminating the security threats in outer space. China is ready to step up cooperation

with all parties and work for achieving peace, security and development in outer space.

Yesterday, China and the Russian Federation, in Geneva, submitted the PDWT Revised Draft Proposal in CD. China is ready to step up cooperation with all parties and work for achieving peace, security and development in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, outer space is the common heritage of humankind. China is ready to make concerted efforts with all parties to actively pursue research on space science, comprehensively promote the space technological applications and make greater contributions to promoting space undertaking for better social and economic development and achieving progress in human civilization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of China.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Voronkov.

**Mr. V. I. VORONKOV** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like at the outset to commend you on your election and to express our confidence that under your able stewardship, this meeting will come to a successful conclusion.

We also express words of thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Yasushi Horikawa, for the very fruitful work that was carried out under his chairmanship during the past years.

We would like to welcome the new Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo. We wish her every success in her endeavours.

We also recall the gratitude of the work that was carried out by Ms. Mazlan Othman.

Mr. Chairman, it would be no exaggeration at all to say that our Committee is a unique global forum. It has never failed to keep its focus on the pragmatic and practical aspects of international cooperation, even during the most difficult and political times and it would be of crucial importance for us to maintain that approach going forward.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to digress briefly at this stage into the Russian Federation's cooperation with other States in space matters. I would like to use

some illustrative examples to highlight the high degree of inter-dependency that exists in this sphere.

Our cooperation takes place in many different areas. In addition to scientific cooperation, we have a whole range of high-tech fields of common endeavour. These mutually beneficial, and in many cases, partnership relations in outer space affairs have their own history, a history that is replete with unprecedented projects and breakthrough political decisions. For example, much progress has been achieved in establishing space vehicle launch joint ventures. Russian rocket engines have been used to upgrade the ATLAS Launch Vehicle.

Another illustrative example concerns the International Space Station. Not only did the Russian Federation build and launch its own major segment of the International Space Station, but we also enabled the United States and the member States of the European Space Agency as well as Japan and Canada to implement their own plans in this sphere.

At the present time, the Russian Federation assures all vital transport flows for the International Space Station.

Partnership relations mean that in extraordinary circumstances, States help each other. For example, when the joint activities of the ESA with NASA are carried out, the cooperation on Mars failed, the situation was saved by the Russian Federation. We agreed with Europe on pragmatic conditions for the ExoMars joint project.

We would like to comment separately on the cooperation that we have in the area of global navigation satellite systems. This cooperation, just like the satellite navigation systems themselves, is an example, also within the United Nations, of the use of space technology for the benefit of mankind. The dialogue that has been underway for quite some time now to ensure the compatibility and complementarity of GLONASS and GPS illustrates the importance of such cooperation for humanity as a whole.

We would like to point out that, at this time in this building, just beside the Permanent Space Exhibit, we have a Russian Exhibition on GLONASS and all are welcome to visit it.

Mr. Chairman, pragmatism is required here within the Committee, first and foremost, when it comes to building systemic relations to ensure the safety of space activities and the space environment. It would be very important for us to maintain the approach to dealing with complex safety issues that

we have succeeded in building over the past two and half years. We firmly believe that this topic is equally important for all States without exception. We will be able to ensure more consistent safety in space activities if we succeed in agreeing on a set of guiding principles on ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. We strive in good faith for the success of our common endeavour and we believe that success will be achieved.

Our proposals, including our proposals for the establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a Centre for Information on Near-Earth Space Monitoring, are known to all. We believe that our proposals should serve as a basis for a new round of productive talks. We believe that it would be realistic to develop a new generation of beneficial scientific international practices aimed at ensuring safety in outer space affairs. And the most important thing here is to take on board all worthy ideas. Our assessment is that the talks have now entered a critical stage. We advocate continued active endeavours in this area which we believe is approaching its climax.

And I would like to say a few words about our initiative with respect to the priority item on the agenda of the Committee.

As you know, the Russian Federation proposed considering the legal basis and modalities for exercising and, of course, I would like to underscore this, this is in the case of hypothetical situations, so exercising the right to self-defence as enshrined in the United Nations Charter as applies to outer space. What task could the Committee be asked to take up here?

First and foremost, we could have a public discussion of this basic principle on safety but this time around, as applies to outer space. We could then try to structure potential sources of conflict of interest in outer space and then create a systematic set of responses to potentially hazardous situations in near-Earth orbit. In other words, we need together to come up with ways of responding constructively and predictably to hazardous situations so as to avoid such situations escalating, becoming irreversible, and then spinning over into confrontation.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Ambassador Young-wan Song.

**Mr. Y-W. SONG** (Republic of Korea): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the outset, my delegation congratulates you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of the Bureau on your election. Your extensive national and international experience in the field of space activities will serve us in good stead and we look forward to a productive session under your able leadership.

My delegation is also profoundly grateful to the outgoing Chair, Dr. Yasushi Horikawa, and other members of the Bureau of the fifty-sixth session, for their contributions to the advancement of the COPUOS.

Given the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs' vital role in implementing the decisions of the Committee, my delegation welcomes the recent appointment of the Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo as Director. We have every confidence that her proven abilities will contribute greatly to the work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

We also appreciate the staff of Office for Outer Space Affairs for their dedicated efforts to prepare the documentation and make the necessary arrangements for this session.

Mr. Chairman, taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to share several notable events which have taken place in Korea since the last session of the COPUOS.

In the field of space law, the Government of the Republic of Korea revised the Second Development Basic Plan to a Long-Term Space Development Plan in 2013. This long-term Plan sets the vision and objectives of the national space programme from 2014 to 2040 and encompasses our satellite, launch vehicle and space exploration programmes.

Regarding the satellite programme, the Republic of Korea is currently operating a geostationary satellite, COMS, and low-orbit Earth observation satellites, KOMPSAT-2, 3 and 5. A new geostationary satellite programme, GEO-KOMPSAT-2, has been initiated on the basis of the COMS mission and it will be launched in 2018. In addition, the KOMPSAT-3A is to be launched this year and will carry an infrared sensor and an electro-optical instrument for Earth observation. For scientific and technological purposes, the multipurpose

microsatellite, STSAT-3, equipped with hyper-spectral and infrared cameras was launched in November 2013.

As for the launch vehicle programme, the Republic of Korea has been performing R&D on its KSLV-II since 2010, incorporating the valuable knowledge and experience accumulated from the successful launch of KSLV-I in 2013. The objective of the KSLV-II programme is to develop an indigenous vehicle capable of launching a 1.5 tonne class application satellite into a 600-800 kilometre sun-synchronous orbit by 2020 or earlier.

In the area of space exploration, Korea has developed a Lunar Exploration Plan based on its successful experience with satellite development. Together with international partners, we are developing a lunar orbiter and lander to be launched in 2020 by KSLV II.

Mr. Chairman, The Republic of Korea continues to share various benefits from space technology with the international community, in particular developing countries. For example, the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, KARI, has hosted a two-week International Space Training Programme annually since 2010. KARI is holding its Fifth Training Programme later this month with 21 participants from 15 countries. The Programme will offer courses in satellite systems as well as in space policy and space science, including hands-on training in ground system operation.

Moreover, as a member of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, KARI makes its satellite data available for disaster management, including disaster relief and rehabilitation. Since 2013, KARI has provided 22 disaster-affected countries with 55 KOMPSAT-2 satellite images.

KARI is also contributing to international efforts to resolve space debris issues. In 2013, the Institute developed a prototype for a space debris collision risk management system called KARISMA. The prototype has been tested and validated by means of a comparison study with NASA and the European Space Agency. Following validation, KARISMA will be installed in the KARI Mission Control Centre to support the mission operations of Korea's satellites, such as KOMPSAT-2, 3, 5 and COMS.

Finally, I would like to note that the Korean Space Development Promotion Act has been revised with the aim of addressing national and international challenges in mitigating the risks associated with the peaceful uses of outer space. According to law's revision, the Korean Government shall establish a

Plan to Prepare Risk in Outer Space every 10 years and designate a specialized institution as the competent authority for this work. My delegation hopes that Korea's upcoming experiences in this field will benefit others, in particular developing countries, through relevant international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation believes that space sustainability is the most critical issue we face. We also believe that the peace and security we strive for on Earth should be maintained in outer space in light of the clear provisions of the Outer Space Treaty and Principles. However, determining which uses of outer space are for peaceful purposes is a difficult undertaking fraught with competing interests. Such discussions are further complicated by the unprecedented change in the outer space environment driven by many factors. These include progress in space science and technology, greater use and the corresponding rise in space traffic, the growing role of the private sector, the accumulation of space debris, and rising interest in transparency and confidence-building measures regarding outer space activities.

In such a context where change is constant, a step-by-step and gradual approach is more likely to produce tangible progress than one that emphasizes a comprehensive solution. I would like to suggest that we might begin with less controversial technical issues in order to complement normative gaps the current treaties and principles may not cover. These could include regulation of traffic, navigation, control, operation, communication, safety, nationality and jurisdiction relating to space objects and activities. Such an approach has the potential to lay the groundwork for the orderly and safe use of space while creating opportunities for transparency and confidence-building measures to contribute to peace and security in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, these discussions are critical, and Korea attaches great significance to practicable solutions to the challenges to space sustainability. At the same time, we would also like to see the use of space for peaceful purposes continue. We support in particular the efforts of developing countries and those embarking on a space programme to realize the benefits of exploration and use of outer space in a responsible manner.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Indonesia, Mr. Thomas Djamaluddin.

**Mr. T. DJAMALUDDIN** (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Indonesian delegation, allow me to first of all express my warm congratulations to you Mr. Oussedik, on your assumption as Chairman of this fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, COPUOS. I fervently believe that under your wise and able leadership, this session will successfully manage to bridge numerous issues within the framework of cooperation for peaceful purposes. Rest assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation for the fruitful deliberation of the meeting.

On this occasion, I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Yasushi Horikawa of Japan for the fruitful chairmanship of this Committee in the last two sessions.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo on her assumption as the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. We have full confidence that Ms. Di Pippo will lead the Office with the same vigour, professionalism and expertise as her predecessor. I would like also to reiterate our full support in this challenging endeavour.

We also commend the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made to support the work during the course of our session.

Mr. Chairman, our delegation has followed very closely the development of work of the Committee since last year, as well as outcome of the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee meeting and the fifty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee meeting which took place this year. While taking note with appreciation of the fruitful outcomes and recommendations of these meetings, my delegation would like to put emphasis on several key issues that need close attention in this session.

Firstly, we would like to underline the importance of continued discussion on the issue of the geostationary orbit as an important tool of communication system in the COPUOS sessions. As you may be aware, communication is one of the fundamental elements for people to ensure progress and express their views. Communication, in other words, validates human equality which represents an essential part of the "freedom of expression" as guaranteed by the United Nations Declaration on

Human Rights of 1948. For Indonesia, as an archipelagic country that lies along the equatorial line and consists of thousands of islands, as well as a home of huge number of population, the need for maximum and effective use of satellite as a mean of a communication system is highly important.

In this regard, we are of the view that discussion on the issue of the geostationary orbit, including its challenges and good practices, would be beneficial with a view to accommodate the interest and concerns of countries with certain geographical conditions and their peoples.

Mr. Chairman, secondly, I would also like to touch on the importance of discussing the issue of definition and delimitation of outer space. In this particular matter, we profoundly believe that sovereignty in outer space and air space is crucial for every nation. In this regard, we would like to appreciate and support for the Committee's decision to continue the discussion of this issue in the next session of the Subcommittee in 2015. Therefore, we look forward to the continuation of the discussion on this issue in the future sessions of the Subcommittee as it represents a significant platform for the exchange of information and experiences among States on measures and practices in this field.

Furthermore, we, as a non-faring nation, also look forward to engage in a constructive dialogue in the discussion of the non-legally binding United Nations instruments in this Committee or the Subcommittee, within its respective mandate. Such discussion is also important to meet the objective that such instruments should be in line with the principles of a fair, beneficial and sustainable use of outer space for peaceful purposes for all human beings, as well as to ensure that its discrepancy on the weaponization of outer space are rightly fulfilled.

Another not less important matter that should be taken into account for Indonesia is the ways to manage and bridge the gaps of capabilities in space technology which eventually still exists among countries. In this regard, we believe that capacity-building and transfer of space technology remains the key factors to helping national capacity of member States, which in turn may play a significant role in the attempt of making the space environment more sustainable. Therefore, we would like to call upon the international community to enhance mutual partnership and continue providing technical assistance and adequate resources to member States, in particular for developing countries, with a view to

enhancing their ability in outer space activities, including space technology.

Mr. Chairman, on another note, I am delighted to inform you that Indonesia and the United Nations have successfully organized the United Nations/Indonesia Conference on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Climate Change, in Jakarta, from 2-4 September 2013. The Conference, which was hosted by the National Institute of Aeronautics and Space, LAPAN, was attended by 150 experts from the space and the climate change communities as well as decision makers. The Conference has produced fruitful recommendations, among others, concerning methods to use space-based applications to support the identification and implementation of adaptation measures, as well as ways to share experiences and lessons learned on the use of such applications in the context of mitigation. On this occasion, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, UNSPIDER and all distinguished participants for your active contributions to the Conference.

I would also like to inform you an important event to be held in Indonesia, where Jakarta has the opportunity to host an event, called the "International School on Equatorial and Low Latitude Ionosphere", from 16 -20 March 2015. This event is organized by LAPAN in collaboration with the Japan Society Promotional of Science, JSPS. The aim of this programme is to increase the capacity in the field of outer space weather.

Allow me also to inform you that Indonesia participated in the Twentieth Commemoration of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF, in Hanoi last year. As one of the active participants of the APRSAF, Indonesia in this regard wishes to state its readiness to host the Twenty-Second APRSAF in 2015. At this great opportunity, we would like to invite and welcome all distinguished delegates to visit Indonesia to participate in these two events.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, I would like to reiterate our firm support and commitment to the successful conclusion of this session for the benefit of us all.

I thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Indonesia.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Poland, Mr. Jerzy Wenderlich, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Poland.

**Mr. J. WENDERLICH** (Poland): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, first of all, Mr. Azzedine Oussedik, allow me to congratulate you as a new Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as well as both your Vice-Chairman. We are confident that under your able guidance the Committee will achieve valuable and significant results.

The delegation of Poland also welcomes Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo. Madame, I wish you a fruitful work and good cooperation with all member States.

We also appreciate very much all the efforts of all staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs with smooth and successful operation of the Office to the benefit of all participants. I would like to assure all of you about the full support of the Polish delegation.

Mr. Chairman, our delegation aligns itself fully with the statement made earlier this morning on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

Mr. Chairman, Poland's accession to the European Space Agency allowed to introduce Polish enterprises as well as science and research institutions to this innovative and technological trend to space. Many new enterprises involved in space activities comes mainly from the aviation and defence sectors, but also from information technology, telecommunication and electronics sectors. The Polish Space Industry Association has already 26 members and that amount is constantly growing.

A few days ago the Polish Parliament was proceeding a Bill establishing the Polish Space Agency, POLSA. We hope our Parliament will adopt this Act soon.

The Council of Ministers is also now proceeding an actualization Programme for Developing Space Technology and Exploiting Satellite Systems in Poland called the Polish Space Action Plan and the Ministry of Economy is responsible for the drafting of the national legal framework implementing obligations deriving from space treaties, particularly related to creating a National Registry of Space Objects. This draft has now proceeded by the Government.

Distinguished delegates, many events related to space activities were held recently in Poland,

including industrial workshops, conferences and seminars. As an example, I will mention only two. In April, at the Copernicus Science Centre International Meeting, "Poland in ESA: New Business Opportunities" took place. By this event, Poland showed a strong signal that we are developing the space industry and exploiting all the opportunities that space provides for a better life on Earth. Also during May, the European Regional Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition for 2014, took place at the University of Wroclaw.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Poland, as a full member of ESA and EUMETSAT, as well as a member of the European Union, is now contributing significantly to common European space policy and efforts. Poland is an active partner also in flagship programmes, such as Copernicus and Galileo. Two satellites, LEM and Heweliusz, dedicated to astronomical observations are being developed in Poland. They are part of the BRITE Consortium formed jointly with Austria and Canada, which perform a spectrometric investigation of variable stars.

Education on space is continuously widening in Poland. A great example is the regular participation of Polish students from various technical universities in the annual competition organized by the Mars Society in Utah in the United States. A few days ago, six Polish student teams with Mars rovers took part in the University Rover Challenge in the United States. First and third place were won by Polish teams from the Bialystok and Rzeszow Universities of Technology respectively.

While informing on the development of the space sector in Poland, I would like to draw your attention to the activities of the Polish Parliamentary Space Group. The Group is involved in a number of duties which help to shape and stimulate the development of the space sector. The Polish parliamentarians continuously provide the enabling legislation, secure the financing of the space programmes in national budgets and remove the obstacles and barriers which hamper the Polish space sector. As you have heard before, it was entirely the initiative of the Polish Parliamentary Space Group to place a law to establish the Polish Space Agency.

We are also supporting all initiatives of the activities both in domestic and international dimensions. Today, I have an honour to deliver not only that statement but to inform you on a special ceremony which is taking place in the Office for Outer Space Affairs exhibition hall.

Mr. Chairman, distinguish delegates I am pleased to invite you to the Ceremony, which will be held on the occasion of the donation of the canvas of Nicolaus Copernicus, a Great Polish Astronomer, and the LEM satellite model to the United Nations Office in Vienna, which will take place today at 2:45 pm at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Permanent Exhibit.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, thank you for your attention

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Poland.

The last speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the International Astronautical Federation, Mr. Sergei Saveliev.

**Mr. S. SAVELIEV** (International Astronautical Federation): Thank you. Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, distinguished observers, President Kiyoshi Higuchi is unable to attend this session, and has asked me, as IAF Vice-President in charge of relations with international organisations and developing countries, to represent him. He also extends his sincere greetings to the former Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Yasushi Horikawa, and the new Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Azzedine Oussedik, to the First Vice-Chair, Mr. Diego Stacey Moreno, to the Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Mr. Samir Salim Mohammed Raouf, and Mr. Ma Xinmin, and to all delegates and observers present at this fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

On behalf of the International Astronautical Federation, I would like to congratulate the new Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mrs. Simonetta Di Pippo, on her appointment.

The International Astronautical Federation is now in its sixty-third year and I am pleased to report to you on last year's achievements, with a particular focus on the topics relevant to the work of the United Nations COPUOS and on the IAF's activities conducted together with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. I will also briefly outline the Federation's upcoming activities.

#### **About the International Astronautical Federation**

The IAF is a worldwide Federation of institutions active in outer space. Created in 1951 to establish a global dialogue between scientists and to lay the foundations for international space cooperation, the IAF continues to connect space

people to this day. It is well-known as the organizer of the premier annual global space conference, the International Astronautical Congress, or IAC.

Our activities, however, go far beyond this. Following our theme, "A Space-Faring World Cooperating for the Benefit of Humanity", the IAF advances knowledge, development and applications of space assets and maintains a significant worldwide network of experts, addressing all aspects of outer space. Our membership comprises of 273 organizations from 64 countries, with an increasing number of members from Africa, Asia and Latin America. It includes the world's leading space agencies, industrial companies, research institutes and professional societies as well as universities and museums.

#### **Achievements in 2013 and 2014**

##### **The Sixty-Fourth IAC in 2013**

The past year was highly successful for the IAF. We are delighted that the International Astronautical Congress is growing ever more popular. The IAC 2013 was held in Beijing, China, from 23-27 September 2013, and set a new attendance record with over 3,700 participants. The Congress featured a very successful space exhibition, a varied plenary programme, including seven plenary events, three highlight lectures and three late breaking news sessions, and a comprehensive technical programme with more than 1,700 papers and more than 300 posters presented in 181 technical sessions. There was also the Twenty-Third United Nations/IAF Workshop, the Fifth International Meeting for Members of Parliaments and networking initiatives such as the IAF Global Networking Forum and the IAC Hosts Summit.

##### **UN/IAF Workshop**

Held from 20-22 September last year under the theme "Space Technology for Economic Development", the Twenty-Third United Nations/IAF Workshop was one of IAC 2013's great successes.

On behalf of IAF, I would like to thank again the Director and staff of the Office of Outer Space Affairs for their excellent cooperation in the organization of this annual Workshop, which helps the IAF both collaborate with and reach out to developing countries. The next United Nations/IAF Workshop will be held from 26-28 September 2014 in Toronto, Canada, in conjunction with the Sixty-Fifth IAC. The theme will be "Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits" with a focus on global

health and maritime applications. I invite all delegates and representatives to join us at this important event.

#### **International Meetings of Members of Parliament**

The Fifth Meeting of Members of Parliaments took place in Beijing and discussed the “Benefits of Space Technology for Economic Growth and Competitiveness of Industry”. This Meeting provided an opportunity for policymakers from around the world to exchange views on the uses of space technology for the benefit of mankind.

#### **GEO-X**

The IAF is pleased to announce its status as a Participating Organization to the Group on Earth Observations, which was officially accepted at the Tenth GEO Plenary Session in Geneva on 15 January 2014. The IAF and the GEO share a common mission: to foster dialogue between scientists and policy-makers and to support global cooperation in space. At this year’s Plenary and Ministerial, the IAF organized a side-event entitled “Opportunities in Global Space Applications: the IAF and GEOSS”. This included panellists from NASA, the Canadian and the European Space Agencies, SANSa and the United Nations COPUOS, and explored opportunities for future collaboration between IAF and GEO communities.

#### **ILA 2014 Berlin Airshow**

The IAF held a Joint Networking Reception with the German Aerospace Centre, DLR, at the ILA Berlin Airshow in May 2014. The IAF takes this opportunity to thank again DLR for their cooperation in the organization of this very enjoyable networking event.

#### **GLAC 2014**

The IAF, together with UNESCO, held the Global Space Applications Conference, GLAC, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, from 2-4 June 2014. The technical and the public programmes saw more than 100 speakers presenting to more than 250 delegates from 40 countries. There were 15 technical sessions and four high-level plenaries, as well as 50 posters displayed within the Exhibition Hall.

This Conference provided an excellent opportunity to review cutting-edge satellite-based applications and their multiple benefits for society. The Conference brought together the global satellite-based services community, including senior

representatives of the major space agencies, industry, governments, academia and NGOs. These groups presented results, exchanged ideas and discussed the future opportunities provided by satellite applications.

The objective of the IAF and UNESCO was to illustrate the extraordinary contribution of satellite applications and services to society over the last 40 years and the developments to come. Whether in the field of telecommunication and broadcasting, positioning and navigation, meteorological observations, remote sensing of the Earth’s surface, or a combination of these, satellite applications make vital contributions to the sustainable development of humanity.

The IAF will continue its series of Global Conferences with a Global Space Conference on Innovation Management planned for 23-25 June 2015, in Munich, Germany.

#### **The Sixty-Fifth IAC in 2014**

The Sixty-Fifth IAC will be hosted by the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute in Toronto, Canada, from 29th September to 3rd October 2014, under the theme “Our World Needs Space”. The Sixty-Fifth IAC will bring together renowned international speakers from space agencies, industry, governments researchers and other experts, within a carefully selected mix of technical sessions, plenaries and associated events.

The Congress will feature 32 symposia in five different categories containing 181 technical sessions, as well as seven plenary events and several highlight lectures and late breaking news sessions. The Call for Abstracts for IAC 2014 closed at the end of February 2014 and a hugely impressive 3,555 abstracts were submitted. The International Programme Committee members gathered on 18-20 March 2014 in Paris to proceed with the selection process. The ratio of accepted contributions was 66 per cent, meaning that a record number of 2,348 technical presentations were accepted. Registration for the Congress is open and discounts for Early Registration are still available until 30th June 2014.

On behalf of the Federation, I would like to invite you to attend this Congress of utmost relevance to the work of the United Nations COPUOS. During the IAC 2014, the IAF will continue to highlight the issues of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including the mitigation and removal of space debris. This issue is of high priority for the IAF, just as it is for COPUOS. This is considering the

threat of an increasing orbital debris population, the crowding of selected orbit families and various radio interference concerns between active spacecraft in geostationary orbit.

#### **Preparation of IAC 2015 and IAC 2016**

We are also firmly on-track with preparatory activities for the Sixty-Sixth IAC, which will be hosted by the Israel Space Agency in Jerusalem, from 12-16 October 2015.

As for the Sixty-Seventh IAC, which will be hosted by the Mexican Space Agency in Guadalajara, the initial dialogue and planning have already made good progress and the Congress dates have been set from 24th September to 1st October 2016.

#### **IAF President's Agenda 2013-2014**

With the aim to reposition the IAF and expand its activities and global reach to foster international collaborations, the IAF President, Mr. Kiyoshi Higuchi, has developed a "President's Agenda for 2013-2014", which includes the review and upgrade of the IAF Constitution and Bylaws. A dedicated Working Group has been actively working on this particular action and has practically finalized its work on revising and amending the Federation's basic documents. The Revised Constitution will be brought forward to the IAF members for approval this summer.

Mr Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present main activities and plans of the International Astronautical Federation to the Committee.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the International Astronautical Federation, Mr. Sergei Saveliev.

We shall, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to inform you that I have received a request from the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the opportunity to briefly address the Committee in the time left for this morning's meeting.

Therefore, if there are no objections, I would like to give the floor at this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and on behalf of the Committee, invite her to deliver her statement.

Seeing no objections, I give the floor to the Director, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo.

**Ms. S. DI PIPPO** (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, I warmly welcome you all to the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and thank you for the opportunity to address this session of the Committee on the work of the Office over the past year. The Office stands ready to assist you in making this session a success and looks forward to a fruitful and constructive session.

Mr. Chairman, it is really a great pleasure for me to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Committee and to express confidence that the Committee will continue to achieve major accomplishments under your able guidance.

I would also like to welcome Diego Stacey Moreno of Ecuador, as First Vice-Chair of the Committee, and Samir Mohammed Raouf of Iraq, and Xinmin Ma of China as Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee for this session and next year's session respectively.

I would like to assure you of the support of the Office in facilitating your work to our utmost ability.

I am also pleased to thank Yasushi Horikawa of Japan for his excellent leadership of the Committee in the past period 2012-2013, and Filipe Duarte Santos of Portugal and Piotr Wolanski of Poland, for their dedicated work as First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur respectively of the Committee.

The mounting role of outer space is being reconfirmed by the growing importance the international community attaches to cooperation in this area. Since the establishment of the Committee, its membership has increased more than four-fold and is still growing. The Committee membership and legitimacy of the United Nations could be a catalyst for increased international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space to the benefit of developed and developing countries in their common pursuit of achieving the Development Goals beyond 2015.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the responsibilities of the Office towards the Committee and its subsidiary bodies kept the Office fully engaged in the past year through its various programmed activities, ranging from full substantive Secretariat support to the sessions, coordination of United Nations space interagency actions and by a wide spectrum of activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, UNSPIDER, Executive Secretariat function under ICG and in

discharging the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the legal regime on outer space.

In this regard, I would like to bring to your attention that the proposed Strategic Framework of the Programme for the period 2016-2017 is available in the official document system of the United Nations under the document number A/69/6/Programme 5 which has also been made available to all delegations today in a document A/AC.105/2014/CRP.7.

I invite the Committee to review the proposed Framework and to provide comments or suggested modifications to the text, if any during its meeting on the morning on 12/2014(?). The Committee's decision and/or modifications will be communicated to the Committee on Programme Coordination, well-known as CPC, responsible for reviewing the programmes of the United Nations before its meeting with the Office, tomorrow, Thursday, 12 June 2014.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as you are aware, our Programme is funded both from the regular budget and voluntary contributions, both in cash and in-kind. The Office is very grateful to the member States and other partners who have contributed voluntarily to our activities. A list of donors is contained in the attached to the written version of this statement. Still, the Office suffers from financial constraints which ultimately could hamper our ability to deliver.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite donors to consider providing unearmarked contributions to cover essential operational needs of the Office. We have struggled with the resources we have and the operational ability of the Office should not be affected by constraints relating to general temporary assistance, staff travel, equipment and softer(?) related costs, work station support fees and other expenses.

Another important matter related to the necessities for the timely conclusion of an agreement that is change of letters prior to the holding of workshops, training courses and seminars organized by the Office on behalf of the United Nations and held away from established headquarters, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 47/202 on 22 December 1992 and reflected in document ST/AI/342 of 8 May 1997.

In this connection, I would like to urge member States to be mindful in agreement with standard United Nations clauses should be concluded at least three months before the anticipated date of the

meeting to allow formal letters of invitation and other obligations to be carried out.

Once firm deadlines for the conclusion of all legal arrangements have been established, non-compliance could result in a postponement or cancellation of the event.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I am now pleased to proceed with an overview of the substantive activities of the Office.

During the last year, the Office continued to discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations treaties on outer space.

The Office would like to encourage all member States who have launched and/or operate space objects to register them with the Secretary-General in accordance with the 1976 Registration Convention or General Assembly resolution 1721B.

We are deeply committed to ensuring we discharge our responsibilities within the mandates given to us in the most effective and efficient manner and we are pleased that the Register continues to enhance confidence among space actors by providing transparency through its mechanisms.

The Office continues its well-established Programme on Capacity-Building in Space Law. In March this year, the Office published the Curriculum on Space Law for the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations.

In 2013, the Office organized a Space Law Seminar in conjunction with the Fifth African Leadership Conference, hosted by Ghana.

This year, the United Nations Workshop on Space Law will be organized by the Office in cooperation with the Government of China, the China National Space Administration, and APSCO, in Beijing, from 17-21 November 2014.

Within the framework of the Programme on Space Applications activities in the year 2013, we are aimed at building capacity in the use of space science and technology in developing countries, as well as to raising awareness of socioeconomic benefits of space technology applications at the national, regional and international levels.

Basic space science, Global Navigation Satellite System, GNSS, small satellites, human space technology, and the use of space technology for enhancing food, a world of security, as well as

addressing climate change, were among the main areas focused upon by the Programme in the past year. A separate statement by the Expert on Space Applications will be made during this session reporting on those activities.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Ninth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite System, ICG, which serves as an important platform to improve the coordinated service provision to benefit humankind, will be organized by the European Commission and the European GNSS Agency, GSA, on behalf of the European Union, from 10-14 November 2014, in Prague, Czech Republic, and it is my intention to be there.

Its interest to host the Tenth Meeting of ICG in 2015 was expressed by the United States.

It is a pleasure for me to inform that this year, the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations, have started to use the Global Navigation Satellite Systems Education Curriculum, to contribute to the creation of a knowledgeable workforce necessary for the advancement of GNSS and its applications in the regions.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, since the last session of the Committee in 2013, the UNSPIDER Programme provided technical advisory missions to five countries, delivered training at the national level in four countries, and for the global community in three countries, and organized supported or participated in a number of interventional and regional workshops as well as expert meetings.

Furthermore, the Network of Regional Support Offices has been expanded to now 16 members who are contributing to the Programme, notably in knowledge management and capacity-building.

The Knowledge Portal of UNSPIDER is constantly improved following priorities defined from a comprehensive evaluation in 2012. It now has a Spanish version and a fresh version is being built.

The General Assembly resolution 16/110, which established the UNSPIDER Programme, stated that the Programme should be supported through voluntary contributions. We are thankful to the Governments of Austria, China and Germany for their commitment to the Programme since its inception and have now renewed commitment from

the Government of China and Germany up until the end of 2017.

We would like to invite interested member States to consider the provision of necessary resources as voluntary contributions and/or as concrete collaboration and partnership offers in order to enable the Programme to respond to the growing demand for support in disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would now turn to some further aspects of importance involving coordination among United Nations system entities.

The report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, known as GGE, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/68, published on the 29 July 2013, under the symbol number A/68/189, is made available to delegations during this session.

In their report, the Group concluded that the world's growing dependence on space-based systems and technologies in the information they provide, requires collaborative efforts to address threats to the sustainability and security of outer space activities.

With regard to the United Nations system, the Group recommended that coordination be established between the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and other appropriate United Nations entities, on matters related to transparency and confidence-building measures for outer space activities. In this connection, contacts between the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs are initiated. Moreover, the Interagency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, well-known as United Nations Space, agreed that this Thirty-Fourth Session in May this year to include that this session next year an exchange of views on the report pertaining to the coordination of United Nations system entities.

I would also take this opportunity to inform delegations that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in response to a request from the General Assembly Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization, to increase interactive dialogue, intends to hold a panel discussion on the theme relating to the GGE report, to be organized during this year's session of the Fourth Committee, when it considers the item on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The schedule of meetings are 15-17 October 2014 and the panel

discussion would be held on the opening day, 15 October 2014.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, UN-SPACE was held from 13-14 May 2014, in New York. The session was organized back-to-back with the Fourteenth Meeting of the United Nations Geographical Information Working Group, a Network of United Nations Professions working in the field of cartography and geographic information science.

A Joint UN-SPACE/UNGIWIG Meeting was held in the afternoon of 14 May. UN-SPACE decided to focus its upcoming Special Report on the theme of "Space and Global Earth(?)". Further, and as I already mentioned, UN-SPACE will include in the agenda for its next session in 2015, an exchange of views and information on the GGE Report.

As part of the Interagency Meeting, an open informal session was organized on 14 May to reach out to representatives of member States of the United Nations on the theme of "Contribution of Space Technology and Applications to the Post-2015 Development Agenda".

The importance of space technology in addressing the post-2015 Development Agenda is also the theme of the report of the Secretary-General on Coordination of Space-Related Activities, for the period 2014-2015.

I will make a more detailed statement under the item on the use of space technology in the United Nations system during the course of this session. The report of the Secretary-General and the report of UN-SPACE are being made available to delegations at this session.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is a unique intergovernmental body, positioned to foster international cooperation in the post-peaceful exploration of the use of outer space. Since the establishment of the Committee, following the launch of the first artificial satellite, considerable advancements in space technology and applications have been made, offering innovative solutions to traditional approaches in virtually any sector, from agriculture to public health, from environment protection to disaster response. Now, at the critical stage when the world's shapes new sustainable development goals and formulates global development agenda in the post-2015 context, there is a growing recognition by the global community of the contribution of space technology for informed decision-making.

The establishment and strengthening of sustainable and standard-driven spatial data infrastructures, merit recognition as means of implementation of those Development Goals and objectives.

In order to ensure that the fundamental access to information and ability to use data to support decision-making at all levels, are carried forward and acted upon in the set of Sustainable Development Goals for 2015 and beyond. The Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office have together a unique opportunity to mobilize support and commitment at the global level for increasing the role of space-based technology and information as enabler of the goals and objectives of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in concluding, the Office for Outer Space Affairs fulfils a broad mandate in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space, bringing space-related capacity to all parts of the world. The use of space technology applications for the benefit of developing countries and for global development is a paramount objective and importance for the Office.

To continue making achievements in this important field, we need to raise awareness both within the United Nations system and among potential partners. A new communication strategy has been put in place then and a deep restructuring of the Office for Outer Space Affairs website started. In this context, also social media require an increasing importance. In this respect, I invite you to watch a short video on the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Enjoy and thank you for your attention.

*Video (Office for Outer Space Affairs)*

"The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs was there from the beginning of the space era, created just one year after the launch of Sputnik-1, with the aim of bringing the benefits of space to humankind.

OOSA has assisted the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to promote international cooperation in space, leading to the adoption of the Outer Space Treaty, the first treaty in a series of five governing space-related activities and three UN global conferences on outer space, UNISPACE-I, II and III. The Outer Space Treaty recognizes space explorers as envoys of humankind.

For over 40 years, OOSA's Programme on Space Applications has provided practical assistance

on the use of space technology for peaceful purposes throughout the world, through its workshops, initiatives, fellowships and Regional Centres.

OOSA's SPIDER Programme works to ensure that all countries are able to benefit from space-based information, such as satellite imagery for disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

The Office also facilitates UN-Space, a mechanism for UN entities to cooperate on the use of space technologies for sustainable development.

Each year, OOSA celebrates the first artificial satellite launched into orbit and the first human in space, as well as other space-related milestones.

The Office is headed by Simonetta Di Pippo, Director, and has over 30 staff in Vienna, Beijing and Bonn.

A Permanent Exhibit at the Office in Vienna is open to the public every day.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs bringing the benefits of space to humankind for over five decades.”

*End of video*

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for her informative statement and also for this very exciting video.

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

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Space for Peaceful Purposes, and 7, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Fifty-First Session.

There will be one technical presentation this afternoon by a representative of Thailand entitled “Future of Space Industry Business in Thailand and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, ASEA”.

Finally, I would like to inform delegations that directly after our meeting this morning, delegations are invited to join me at a reception, hosted by Japan, in the Coffee Corner area outside Board Room D. Thereafter, also during lunchtime, at 2.45 p.m., there will be a Donation Ceremony, hosted by Poland, in the Permanent Space Exhibition on the Ground Floor in the D/E corridor.

This evening, at 6.00 p.m., I cordially invite all delegations to the opening of the Exhibition, co-hosted by Algeria and South Africa, in the Rotunda, followed by a reception in the Coffee Corner outside Board Room D.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

This meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

Thank you very much.

*The meeting adjourned at 1.20 p.m.*