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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KARUKUBIRO-KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 71: SCIENCE AND PEACE (A/45/601; A/SPC/45/L.11)

1. Mrs. CASTRO DE BARISH (Costa Rica), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.11, said that its format was similar to that of General Assembly resolution 43/61 of 6 December 1988, in which, following a proposal submitted by the delegation of Costa Rica, the Assembly had proclaimed the International Week of Science and Peace, which would take place each year during the week in which 11 November fell. Its purpose was to encourage and foster the use of science for peace and the benefit of mankind and to promote disarmament and arms control.

2. As had been demonstrated, the Week should continue to be commemorated, since it had given rise to a series of activities which fostered an awareness of the importance of promoting international co-operation and instilling into scientists a sense of ethics and responsibility with regard to the way in which their experiments and discoveries were used.

3. Over the centuries, science had played two major roles: one was to describe and explain observable phenomena, while the other, which was of a practical nature, was to provide mankind with a means of using the knowledge it had acquired for its own benefit. That practical value did not allow science to remain aloof from the consequences which it could produce, and made it necessary to draw a distinction between science for war and science for peace. Scientists must be aware of the purposes for which their discoveries would be used, and societies should know what application those discoveries would have since, although science had contributed to the improvement of the quality of human life and the human environment, it could also lead to the destruction of all forms of civilization and of life itself.

4. There was a direct link between scientific activity and the development of peoples. Science should be used for the benefit of mankind and should not create the the means for its destruction. That was why the United Nations should promote, at the global level, greater awareness among scientists of how science could be used to enhance international peace, security and co-operation and social and economic development, promote human rights and protect the environment - concepts which were contained in the draft resolution co-sponsored by Costa Rica.

5. It was very encouraging to note the quantity and quality of the activities carried out by many States Members of the United Nations. Among the central themes of such activities, which had received wide media coverage, were the links between scientific and technological development and peace, the special role of scientists in promoting peace, and scientific responsibility and moral considerations in the conduct of scientific research. All that proved that the seed planted two years ago had sprouted and would continue to bear fruit with the support which the international community had provided and would continue to provide.

6. Costa Rica had observed the International Week of Science and Peace with great enthusiasm and had organized various activities, such as courses in scientific

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

journalism; a series of lectures on development; prizes to encourage young people gifted in science; a seminar on the revision of teaching activities with a view to placing greater emphasis on environmental education, nutrition, humanistic education and the relationship between progress, technology and peace; a training course in the use of nuclear energy for professionals from various national institutions; and agreements of private and public enterprises on the establishment of technological management units for the purpose of strengthening the productive sector.

7. Mr. BOUTS'KO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that there had always been a close link between science and peace. Unfortunately, science had also brought mankind face to face with the threat of self-destruction, and the international community was rightly concerned about the purposes for which the powerful forces of science were used. It was clearer than ever that States could not achieve security at the expense of the security of others and, in an increasingly interdependent world, it was necessary to promote co-operation and understanding among all countries.

8. The end of the cold war had brought about increased confidence, mutual understanding and co-operation, and the world scientific community should take advantage of that favourable turn of events which offered so many opportunities, and in which science played a highly important role. There should be greater interaction between scientists and statesmen since, in the modern world, all policies should have a scientific foundation and be based on knowledge and experience in that area. As the Secretary-General's report (A/45/601) indicated, Governments and the scientific communities of many countries were carrying out commendable work in promoting an awareness of the lofty responsibility of science for the strengthening of international peace and security.

9. The scientists of the Ukrainian SSR were also contributing to that work and were playing an important role in their own country. As a result of the accident at Chernobyl, scientists and the entire population had experienced at first hand the terrible effects of a nuclear disaster. In 1990, the Ukraine had observed Chernobyl Week and had carried out many related activities with the broad participation of the international community.

10. The United Nations was doing useful work to stimulate and co-ordinate co-operation among States with a view to consolidating a safe world in which the nuclear threat did not exist. The Organization had held various conferences which had contributed to the understanding of the need to guide scientific and technical progress in such a way that it led to peace, enhanced the quality of life, prevented an ecological catastrophe and solved such acute problems as hunger, underdevelopment and epidemics. Despite all the progress which had been achieved, the United Nations should redouble its efforts to mobilize the entire international community in that regard. The Ukrainian SSR reiterated its readiness to co-operate with the United Nations in that important area, and for that reason it had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.11, which it hoped would be adopted without a vote.

11. Mr. POUKRE-KONO (Central African Republic) said that, at a time of greater rapprochement among countries as a consequence of détente and the end of the cold war, and when scientific and technological progress had reached an unprecedented level which could jeopardize the balance of peace, the international community should pay greater attention to the relationship between science and peace.

12. Science had contributed to the socio-economic growth of States, which was indispensable for the promotion of peace. Although science and technology should serve mankind, certain States and persons, guided by security considerations, forgot about their civic duty. It was a matter of concern that, despite progress in the area of disarmament, new kinds of weapons continued to be produced. Nevertheless, despite certain persistent shortcomings, he noted with satisfaction that science and technology had been used principally for peaceful purposes.

13. All countries, both large and small, had a moral responsibility to conduct their national and international affairs in a way which would contribute to the promotion of peace and, in that regard, there was a need for greater international solidarity capable of generating a new dynamic of prosperity and development for all on an equal basis. Mankind was confronted with serious problems, such as the effects of ionizing radiation, pollution, depletion of the ozone layer and global warming, the destruction of fauna and flora, the consequences of the spillage of hazardous wastes and other natural disasters. The future of the world would depend on the solution of such problems, for which it would be necessary to rely on the international solidarity of the scientific community. Fortunately, mankind possessed the essential information for achieving equitable and lasting co-operation in the field of science and technology.

14. The United Nations played an important role in the solution of questions related to peace, and the proclamation of the International Week of Science and Peace demonstrated the Organization's concerns in that area. In 1986, the Central African Republic had observed the International Year of Peace, which was evidence of its support for the ideals of peace underlying its domestic and foreign policies. Aware of what scientific and technological progress could contribute to the development of a country, the Central African Republic had established the Grand Prix André Colingba in the field of science and technology, as an incentive for researchers and students.

15. The specialized agencies of the United Nations had made important contributions to the social and economic growth of the Central African Republic. In addition to multisectoral consultations, seminars and lectures had been held in order to make the population aware of current issues. In that regard, the conference on environment and sustainable development, which had led to the decision to establish a national committee for the environment, was worthy of note.

16. During the International Week of Science and Peace, many activities had been carried out in various parts of the world, which demonstrated that many countries advocated the use of science and technology for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, the United Nations should continue to promote States' awareness of the need to observe the International Week of Science and Peace on an annual basis.

17. Mr. DONG Jianglong (China) stressed the importance of General Assembly resolution 43/61 in promoting broad participation in the discussion on science and peace, the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of social and economic development. While modern science and technology had improved the quality of human life, it had also brought misery to mankind. About one quarter of the world's total resources went to military research, which jeopardized social and economic stability. In the light of the favourable international climate and the growing interdependence of the world economy, deliberations on science and peace should be made more substantial and precise. Of course, it would be important to determine how to use those resources to solve the most pressing international problems so that science and technology could contribute to peace and balanced development.

18. In China, where both scientists and the population at large firmly believed in peace, many activities had been carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/61, including a national seminar on the contribution of scientific and technological personnel to peace and the modernization of the country. China was convinced that the strengthening of scientific co-operation would facilitate social and economic development and contribute to international peace.

19. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, India, Jamaica, Liberia and Namibia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.11 and that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

20. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.11 was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 73: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/45/20 and 589)

21. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to begin its consideration of agenda item 73 and drew attention to the reports in documents A/45/20 and A/45/589. He noted that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was the focal point for international co-operation in that area and that its work was of great importance for the activities of the United Nations. The United Nations had served as a framework for the elaboration and adoption of a number of international legal instruments on outer space.

22. The lessening of East-West and North-South tensions had created an international climate conducive to fostering co-operation in one of the most dynamic branches of high technology. That was reflected in the Committee's recent achievements, such as the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and its decision to request the Legal Sub-Committee to consider a new item. The General Assembly had proclaimed 1992 as International Space Year and the necessary preparations were proceeding according to schedule. The Committee had urged Member States and international organizations to support more scientific and technical activities in co-operation with the United Nations and to increase their voluntary contributions within the framework of the

(The Chairman)

United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, for its part, had taken measures to make the benefits of space technology accessible to all Member States by implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

23. Mr. MUNTEANU (Romania), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced that Committee's report on behalf of its Chairman and said that the Committee had achieved progress in its efforts to capitalize on the opportunities provided by rapid advances in space technology. The Committee's work had been largely focused on four main areas: ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes; the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-seventh session; the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-ninth session; and spin-off benefits of space technology.

24. With regard to the first item, the Committee had once again stressed the importance of the work carried out in order to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes and reaffirmed its conviction that current developments would strengthen that role. Member States highlighted the fact that the Committee was empowered to strengthen the international bases for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

25. Referring to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, he said that the Committee had endorsed the programme of activities for 1991 and, at the same time, had expressed its appreciation to a number of Governments and institutions for assistance, including financial assistance, provided for holding workshops, training courses and meetings of experts. It had also noted with satisfaction that 1990 had witnessed progress in the implementation of the Programme, but had drawn attention to the Committee's limited resources and had requested the allocation of more resources so that the Programme's activities could be implemented. Having noted that many recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not been fully implemented, the Working Group of the Whole had formulated several specific proposals. The Committee, for its part, had also recommended the reconvening of the Working Group of the Whole in 1991 so that its work could be continued. The Committee had noted with great satisfaction that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space had reached agreement on the matter and that its recommendations had provided the basis for agreement in the relevant working group of the Legal Sub-Committee on a draft principle relating to guidelines and criteria for the safe use of such sources. It had recommended that the item should be retained on the Sub-Committee's agenda and that the Working Group should be reconvened at the thirtieth session of the Sub-Committee. With regard to the question of co-ordination, the Committee had reiterated its appreciation to the representatives of United Nations bodies and agencies and other international organizations for their participation in all stages of its work and for the reports submitted, which could be helpful to the Committee in carrying out its work as a focal point for international co-operation in that area, especially with respect to

(Mr. Munteanu, Romania)

the practical applications of space science and technology in developing countries. Concerning matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, the Committee had endorsed a Sub-Committee recommendation that the discussion on remote-sensing activities should be continued at its twenty-eighth session, in accordance with the principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 41/65. The Committee had noted recent achievements in the field of space transportation systems and had recommended the retention of the item on the agenda. It had also recommended retaining the items entitled "Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine", "Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme", "Matters relating to planetary exploration" and "Matters relating to astronomy". The Committee had also pointed to the lack of progress on the question of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit. With regard to the theme recommended for special attention at the 1991 session of the Sub-Committee, "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries", the Committee had endorsed the recommendation and the request that the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) should be invited to hold a symposium on that theme. Mention should be made of the generous support given by those bodies to the Sub-Committee and the symposium they had conducted on the 1990 theme, "The use of space technology in terrestrial search and rescue and in disaster relief activities". In that regard, special mention should be made of the presentation on the Spacebridge which had connected medical centres in the United States with Armenia, following the earthquake, and with Ufa, following the train accident which had occurred there. The Committee had also considered the question of declaring 1992 as International Space Year. It had recalled the Assembly's endorsement of the recommendation that the training and educational capabilities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be utilized so that the Organization could play an important role, through voluntary contributions by Member States and without any impact on the regular budget of the United Nations or the Programme's schedule of work. States had agreed that the Year provided an opportunity to strengthen and expand international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and had noted the importance of including all countries in activities. Those activities included the World Space Congress, to be organized jointly by COSPAR and IAF in Washington, D.C., and a more far-reaching programme on the "Mission to Planet Earth", which would emphasize the participation of all countries, particularly the developing countries. The Committee had also noted the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was planned for 1992 and had endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that Member States, in planning their activities for the Year, should consider ways in which those activities could complement activities already under way for the Conference.

26. Referring to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, he said that progress continued in the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The Working Group on that item had been

(Mr. Munteanu, Romania)

re-established under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Winkler of Austria. The Committee had welcomed the consensus reached on the text of draft principle 3, relating to guidelines and criteria for safe use. Complying with a recommendation by the Sub-Committee, an informal meeting and further consultations had been held, resulting in some progress, in particular on draft principles 9 and 12. The bases for consensus in the near future on the text of draft principle 8 and the deletion of draft principle 11 had also been established. It was to be hoped that, in the near future, an agreement could be reached on draft principle 2 on notification of the presence on board a space object of a nuclear power source and draft principle 4 on safety assessment. No concrete results had been achieved in the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. The Sub-Committee had had before it for the second year the item entitled "Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries". It had established a Working Group which would meet during its thirtieth session.

27. With regard to the topic "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status", the Committee had agreed that spin-offs were yielding substantial benefits in many fields, such as medicine, manufacturing and construction, art preservation, environmental protection and agriculture. The Committee had noted the importance of international co-operation in developing spin-off benefits, particularly those which could address the social and economic needs of developing countries. The Committee had recommended that space agencies should consider the allocation of a small portion of their resources to encourage spin-off applications of space technology through technology transfer and the exchange of technical information on promotional terms with developing countries.

28. The Committee had granted permanent observer status to the International Law Association and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and had agreed that, in the future, non-governmental organizations which requested observer status should have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee.

29. The new era of international détente could not help but be reflected in the work of the Committee. However, while much attention had been focused on changes in East-West relations, it should be remembered that a need for economic and social development remained in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Committee, in co-operation with other international and regional organizations, would continue to work towards strengthening and expanding co-operation so that space activities could benefit all countries.

30. Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that, given the auspicious international climate in general and the increasing co-operation between the super-Powers in particular, further progress should be possible with regard to ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

(Mr. Freudenschuss, Austria)

31. With regard to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, there was a growing interest in matters relating to the space and earth environment and to the agreement reached in the Committee that space debris could be an appropriate subject for discussion in the future. Likewise, note should be taken of the recommendation of the Working Group of the Whole on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that regional centres should be established for space science and technology education.

32. The Legal Sub-Committee had made progress in elaborating the draft principles on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, reached a consensus on draft principle 3 and laid the bases for a future consensus with regard to draft principle 8 and to the deletion of draft principle 11. As Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole, he felt that a final effort was required in order to conclude its work, and he hoped that the set of draft principles would be adopted at the next meeting of the Committee, in Graz, Austria. With regard to the new item of the Sub-Committee, the time had come to consider it specifically and in greater detail within the framework of the newly formed working group.

33. Mr. SUN Lin (China) said that the progress achieved in space science and technology and in international co-operation in outer space activities had resulted in economic and social benefits for all States. The United Nations had made valuable contributions in that regard by organizing training programmes, seminars and workshops and by providing all kinds of advisory services to developing countries.

34. As part of its process of reform and opening to the outside world, his country attached great importance to the development of space technology and the promotion of its applications. Since the launching of its first satellite, China had placed 29 satellites in orbit, including recoverable remote-sensing, communications and meteorological satellites. In 1990, China's activities in the communications field had produced especially encouraging results, such as the use of commercial satellite services, the connection of a television earth station to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), which had ensured the broadcasting of information on the XI Asian Olympic Games, and the progress made in the construction of rockets capable of launching heavy satellites. In meteorology, note should be taken of the successful launching of an experimental satellite entirely designed and produced in China, which was sending information not only to that country but around the world. China attached great importance to the strengthening of international co-operation within the United Nations system and had conducted various seminars and workshops; in 1991 it would offer two one-year fellowships.

35. He noted with satisfaction the progress achieved during the informal consultations on the question of nuclear power sources. In his delegation's view, draft principles 2 and 4 were interrelated, although their content was very different. With regard to the definition of launching States in draft principle 9, he felt that, owing to the complexity of the question, a more feasible way of

(Mr. Sun Lin, China)

defining the rights and obligations of all parties would be to define the role of the launching States in the light of the specific situation surrounding each clause, on the basis of the current text.

36. The activities of the International Space Year would promote the development of space science and technology and international co-operation in that field. His country firmly supported the activities of the Year and had established a preparatory committee for that purpose. It was willing to promote exchanges and co-operation with other States so that space exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space would serve the interests of all mankind.

37. Mr. TRAKLER (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, said that on the basis of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Committee had elaborated a number of fundamental international legal instruments which had received the continuous support, individual and collective, of the Twelve through the European Space Agency (ESA); the latter currently had 13 member States, nine of which belonged to the Community.

38. The Twelve welcomed the initiative taken by various international scientific organizations of designating 1992 as the International Space Year and the recommendation made by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/46, paragraph 21, that international co-operation should be promoted through the Year for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

39. He noted with satisfaction the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee during its twenty-seventh session, particularly with regard to the agreement reached on scientific and technical criteria for the safe use of nuclear power sources, its contributions to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

40. Note should also be taken of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, which had again considered, and would continue considering in 1991 through its working group, the new agenda item concerning the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

41. The increasingly serious problem of space debris had also drawn the attention of the Twelve, some of which had submitted proposals suggesting the need for a better understanding of its scientific aspects and technical implications if it was really to be solved. The Twelve also agreed with the international community that outer space should continue to be used for peaceful purposes and reiterated their view that resolutions aimed at avoiding the extension of the arms race to outer space fell not within the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

Space but within the competence of other organizations of the United Nations system. Lastly, the Twelve welcomed the spirit of consensus which had prevailed in the deliberations of the Committee and would contribute actively to the strengthening of international co-operation for peaceful purposes in outer space.

42. Mr. TIROL (Philippines) said that his country, a signatory to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, was committed to those activities being carried out for the benefit of all peoples. The world must set aside its last frontier for preserving peace, and the militarization of outer space was thus unacceptable, especially as the cold war had ended.

43. The abandonment of ideologies offered innumerable opportunities for co-operation and was an impetus to the development of space law. The Philippines was heartened that the Working Group of the Legal Sub-Committee would continue to consider at its next session the legal aspects of applying the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, with particular account given to the needs of developing countries.

44. The development of a suitable legal framework would allow nations like the Philippines to gain access to outer space, which they needed in order to move ahead in telecommunications, remote sensing and meteorology. His delegation therefore attached great importance to speedy implementation of the decisions of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) and considered that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was fundamental for the developing countries. Despite its meagre resources, the Programme had done very important work; the International Space Information Service had issued many interesting publications.

45. Remote sensing was of major interest to the Philippines. Access to data was dependent on ground receiving stations, which must be transformed into a network of stations interconnected and interrelated by wire or radio links. Research was needed to determine whether telecommunication facilities could be used for secondary reception of data from the nearest ground receiving station.

46. His delegation viewed with concern the negative impact on developing countries of the commercialization of remote sensing. It would like to see costs become more affordable and a continuous data supply ensured. As a first step, satellite owners should not impose flat rates, but should charge reception fees based on the volume of data received. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the compatibility and complementarity of existing ground receiving stations so that they would not have to be adapted to new systems.

47. He shared the international concern over the hazard to humanity and the environment of the unplanned re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere of malfunctioning space objects with nuclear power sources on board. Consequently, his delegation was pleased that substantial progress had been made in addressing that subject and

(Mr. Tirol, Philippines)

that a consensus had been reached on principles for ensuring the safe use of those sources and on the establishment of protective measures for launching States.

48. He took the view that the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource, was the heritage of mankind and that its rational utilization and accessibility for all must be strictly governed by space law.

49. He was pleased to note that international co-operation would be promoted and space technology used to study the Earth's environment during the International Space Year of 1992. Science and technology possessed immense power, which must be used to increase production, improve the quality of life of all human beings and, ultimately, solve many of the problems facing the world.

50. Mr. MAYORSKIY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the new international economic order, which of course concerned outer space, had come about as a consequence of an equally new political way of thinking. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), a permanent body established to study practical and feasible means in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1472 (A) XIV of 12 December 1959, bore enormous responsibility for dealing with questions currently of vital importance for humanity.

51. COPUOS had been one of the first to rely on a consensus for adopting decisions, a principle already 30 years old. During the period of confrontation, the Committee had had to proceed gingerly in exploring areas of mutual agreement and in maintaining them for a long time as a kind of warning device which, if ignored, could ruin the consensus. A tradition had thus been created that continued to be shouldered by all, although confrontation was a thing of the past.

52. The Soviet Union was in favour of strengthening consensus in the work of COPUOS and called on all delegations to consider measures that might be taken to enhance that Committee's authority, broaden its horizons and strengthen its capacity to act. An objective analysis of the report before the Special Political Committee showed that study of those measures held an insignificant place in the programmes sponsored by the United Nations. There was no doubt that more productive joint efforts could be made in that direction; the preparations for International Space Year should further that aim.

53. It would be no exaggeration to say that the initiative of the non-governmental organizations, approved and supported by the General Assembly, went beyond the original modest framework and continued to grow in importance for everyone. At its thirty-third session, COPUOS had urged all countries to join actively in preparing International Space Year. The Soviet Union supported that call and welcomed the Committee's recommendation that the use of outer space to resolve environment problems should be at the centre of the preparations. It was symbolic that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development would be held in 1992, the year which had been proclaimed International Space Year.

(Mr. Mayorskiy, USSR)

54. Through its Ministry of General Mechanical Engineering and its Academy of Sciences, his country had established a national committee for the preparation and observance of International Space Year. As a result, a national programme had been elaborated which included an international conference on outer space and the problems confronting mankind on the threshold of the twenty-first century, a symposium on management of the Earth and geoecology from outer space, an international gathering of young astronauts, scientists and experts on the peaceful conquest of space, and an international conference on Earth from outer space, devoted to remote-sensing issues. Also during International Space Year, the specialized environmental module Priroda would be launched and would dock with the Mir orbital station to carry out scientific experiments proposed by researchers from developing countries, as well as other interesting projects at the disposal of the programme.

55. In the search for ways and means to preserve outer space for peaceful purposes, it was necessary to eliminate confrontation and to delve into problems without preconceptions. Logically that was linked to the prevention of the arms race in outer space, an issue which was a concern of the Conference on Disarmament. He emphasized that the Soviet Union would not tolerate the use of outer space as a stage for military rivalries.

56. After acknowledging the special and unique mandates of the Conference on Disarmament, he noted that preservation of outer space for peaceful purposes did not stop with disarmament and that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should pronounce itself with the utmost clarity on that point. He urged practical and friendly co-operation between the Conference and the Committee for the benefit of all, but without prejudice to their individual prerogatives. The Committee could offer expert conclusions and information on confidence-building measures and on the legal aspects of the question, with a view to ensuring the safety of activities conducted in outer space.

57. The Legal Sub-Committee was about to conclude the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. During its 1990 session agreements had been reached on related safety criteria. The Sub-Committee had established a new Working Group to consider the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries. The Working Group had held an exchange of often contradictory and nearly always trenchant views, to a point where some delegations had felt that some highly polemic issues should be set aside and that the Group should turn to other matters.

58. As to events in his country, the Mir was still in orbit and, after being unoccupied for a short period, was being used again manned by crews of space researchers. In December 1989, the large Kvant 2 module had docked up with it, as had the Cristal technological module in June 1990, designed to link up with the special multipurpose Buran spaceship to conduct experiments on the production of

(Mr. Mayorskiy, USSR)

semi-conducting materials and biological substances. That space laboratory, several stories high, was manned by crews in rotation who carried out extravehicular manoeuvres, repaired cargo vehicles such as the TM-9 and conducted various experiments in the Cristal module's furnaces, which already had produced 3 kilograms of finished material.

59. The eighth crew was expected to arrive in the first two weeks of December 1990 to carry out the Cosmoreporter international project. A Japanese journalist was to undertake a special eight-day flight and would transmit data using SONY video equipment. Later on, eight cosmonauts from Austria, France and Germany would be travelling to the Mir station.

60. Furthermore, in December 1989 the Granat 1 astrophysics laboratory had been launched as part of an international project of the same name, in which scientists from Bulgaria, France and Denmark were participating using instruments provided by those countries. The purpose of that project was to conduct research on X- and gamma-ray sources in space.

61. After describing the Interbol and Spektr-Rentgen-Gamma projects in detail, he focused on the Mars-94 project on which his country was co-operating with some 20 others. Another important project was Radio-Astron, being carried out by nine countries and a European consortium of radio astronomers to establish a space and ground radiointerferometry system for research on celestial bodies.

62. February 1990 had witnessed the launching of the Nadezhda satellite, which carried navigational equipment for ship and air search and rescue missions, as well as the recovery from Mir of the first commercial payload in the history of his country's space travel, financed by a United States firm to establish a link between weightlessness and the formation of protein crystals.

63. During 1989 the legal foundation for the participation of his country in the exploration of outer space had been broadened and bilateral agreements had been signed with the European Space Agency, China and Argentina. During the years of perestroika, successes and failures and technical and scientific errors, as well as the financial aspects of programmes, had been evaluated more thoroughly. New projects and programmes were subjected to rigorous critical analysis from the standpoint of their political, economic, technical and scientific merits, outmoded views were permanently altered, and romantic notions about the conquest of space were totally rejected. Furthermore, the policy of openness ushered in by glasnost had also been extended to the field of outer space, and national and world public opnion could assess the efficiency and usefulness of the country's efforts in that field. Moreover, his country's scientific community enjoyed increasing independence and autonomy and was able to establish contacts and reach international agreements directly. Those new developments helped to rationalize his country's space activities and provided a further stimulus to increased co-operation with other States for the benefit of all mankind.

OTHER MATTERS

64. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that document A/SPC/45/L.10 contained a letter from him, dated 7 November 1990, addressed to the President of the General Assembly transmitting a letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee concerning programme planning. Subsequently, he had received a letter dated 13 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations presenting the views of his delegation on the subject, which had been transmitted to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and would be issued as document A/SPC/45/L.10/Add.1.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.