



MAY 19 1987

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
35th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 25 November 1986
at 11 a.m.
New York

RESOLUTION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. IRTEMCELIK

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Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/41/SR.35
28 November 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 72: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued) (A/SPC/41/L.28 and L.29)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)
(A/41/20 and Corr.1)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/41/560 and Corr.1)

AGENDA ITEM 137: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF
OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/41/141; A/SPC/41/L.30)

1. Mr. KIKUCHI (Japan) hailed the consensus on an entire set of principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from space as an important achievement for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Legal Sub-Committee. His delegation was ready to join the consensus by adopting the draft principles, which would constitute a major step forward and perhaps be recorded as one of the most significant achievements of the current session of the General Assembly.

2. With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, his delegation was pleased that the Legal Sub-Committee had been entrusted with the more specific task of elaborating draft principles. His delegation was also pleased to note a consensus on the question of notification and assistance to States. There were still, however, important principles to be worked out, such as that relating to State responsibility. He expressed the hope that at its next session the Legal Sub-Committee would establish priorities among the remaining draft principles on nuclear power sources, and that the elaboration of those principles would be expedited.

3. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had an important role to play in providing technical data that could be of use to the Legal Sub-Committee. As his delegation believed that the tasks of the Sub-Committee could be most effectively advanced through the Working Group, it regretted that agreement could not be reached on reconvening the Working Group at the next session.

4. His delegation continued to believe that the definition and delimitation of outer space served no scientific or practical end. The Outer Space Treaty was serving its purpose without such a definition, and activities which benefited all mankind were being carried out in outer space, even though no boundaries had been set. Regarding the utilization of the geostationary orbit, his delegation took the view that that was an area of outer space governed by the Outer Space Treaty and was, therefore, "not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or any other means." Referring to article 33 of the International Telecommunication Union Convention, he stated that, because the geostationary orbit was reusable in character, its utilization must be determined according to radio frequencies and by taking into account technical advances as they developed. He reiterated his delegation's view that questions relating to the regulation of the orbit should be dealt with by ITU.

(Mr. Kikuchi, Japan)

5. While his delegation was willing to participate actively in the discussions of the Legal Sub-Committee on selecting an appropriate new item for its agenda, as agreed at the last session of COPUOS, it felt that, particularly in view of the current financial crisis, it was necessary for the Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee to achieve maximum efficiency in their working methods.

6. He welcomed the inclusion of matters relating to planetary exploration and astronomy in the agenda for the next session and the international co-operation that was being promoted through the exchange of data on such matters as Halley's Comet. Japan's first remote sensing satellite was to be launched in early 1987 and was expected to obtain useful data for forestry, fisheries, topographical and geological surveys and resources development. Japan planned to conduct a joint research programme with several ASEAN countries on data analysis technology. The programme was expected to promote the application of knowledge derived from space activities in the participating countries. Japan continued to encourage and actively participate in international co-operative efforts as it believed that space activities could bring invaluable benefits to all mankind.

7. Mr. NASUTION (Indonesia) commended COPUOS as a focal point for international co-operation with a view to promoting practical programmes and objectives to further the orderly development of space activities for the benefit of all mankind and for the sharing of space science and technology to solve problems on Earth and extend the rule of law to the outer space environment.

8. It was reassuring to developing countries such as Indonesia, with its own modest space programme, that COPUOS had been able to expand the revitalized sense of common purpose that had characterized its work in recent years. As its report (A/41/20 and Corr.1) indicated, there had been important breakthroughs on some items, significant progress on others, while certain difficult issues had still to be resolved.

9. Turning to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, he expressed his delegation's appreciation to the United Nations Expert on Space Applications for his successful implementation of the Programme in 1985. However, as a great deal still remained to be done, his delegation had welcomed the proposal to establish a Working Group of the Whole to undertake at the Sub-Committee's twenty-fourth session, an evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 2 with a view to increasing international co-operation to enhance the efficiency of the Programme on Space Applications. He stressed the conviction of the developing countries that there could be no substitute for increased resources to ensure that the Programme's objectives were met. In view of the current financial constraints facing the Organization, he appealed to all parties to recognize the imperative need to ensure full implementation of the Programme's activities proposed for 1986 and 1987 and to accelerate progress on the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. His delegation also suggested a restructuring of priorities in the Outer Space Affairs Division, with a sharper focus on the priority areas.

(Mr. Nasution, Indonesia)

10. Indonesia had offered to host the Fourth United Nations Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications to Agro-Meteorology and Hydrology for the Member States in the ESCAP region in 1987, as a tangible expression of its support, within its modest means, for the Programme on Space Applications and the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

11. His delegation had supported the General Assembly's decision to designate the theme for each session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, as a way to concentrate the Sub-Committee's attention on matters of particular significance. It was thus most fitting that the theme "Remote sensing for developing countries" was the first to be considered. It was important, because 100 countries had remote sensing data application programmes and such technology and data were of vital importance in developing countries' efforts to achieve accelerated development. While emphasizing priority issues was useful, it might perhaps be advisable for the Sub-Committee to assure that in future, adequate preparations were made to orient the discussion towards tangible results. What was needed was not general agreement on already existing arrangements, but agreement on a broad programme that would arrest and reverse the widening of the technological gap between the developed and developing countries in that field.

12. Regarding the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, his delegation welcomed the consensus reached on the principles on remote sensing, but still had reservations on the compromise language in some of them, particularly principles IX, XII and XIII and shared the concern of other European countries with regard to certain aspects of the draft, including the limitations placed in principle IV on sovereignty of States over their natural resources. His delegation also felt that subjects such as prior consent, natural resources data, transfer of technology, compatibility, continuity and complementarity were not sufficiently covered. Notwithstanding the above reservations, his delegation was prepared to support the adoption of the consensus text.

13. His delegation expressed the hope that further progress would follow the agreement on the text of two principles concerning notification of re-entry of a space object with a nuclear power source, assisted by the corresponding Working Group of the Legal Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee's work on establishing a legal régime governing the geostationary orbit was deadlocked. Indonesia believed that the geostationary orbit was becoming saturated and not being utilized equitably and that the developing countries could soon become effectively barred from access to it.

14. In 1984 Indonesia and the other equatorial countries had advanced a set of principles that would ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit while taking into account the special rights and duties of the subjacent States. The fact that further proposals had been made by other States at the Sub-Committee's recent session indicated that discussions on that item were making headway. His delegation expressed the hope that, at the next session, members would be more forthcoming and engage in earnest negotiations, for that important issue offered a major opportunity for ensuring the sharing of the benefits of outer space among the international community and building trust and confidence among nations.

(Mr. Nasution, Indonesia)

15. He concluded by reiterating his delegation's concern at the intensification of steps to militarize outer space. The ominous consequences of such a development had ramifications yet to be imagined. In connection with the attention being given to that issue by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and the First Committee, COPUOS should also remain seized of that question, inasmuch as its mandate was to ensure that outer space would be forever used exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind.

16. Mr. CANUTO (Observer for the Holy See) recalled that, although more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface was covered by water, 850 million people, i.e., 20 per cent of the world population, lived under the threat of desertification, and the drought and famine brought about by that phenomenon had forced 10 million people to abandon their homes. Seen in that context, the techniques for remote sensing from space were a powerful tool for better resource management, providing sophisticated data that could be used in the fight against desertification.

17. In the past, the goal had been set on many occasions to boost food production, and yet millions of people faced famine. That goal might perhaps be achieved by finding the proper mix of technical and political ingredients. To examine that question, the Pontifical Academy of Science had convened a meeting, which had been attended by 29 delegates from numerous countries, the Vatican, the United Nations, FAO and UNDP. Papers had been presented on various aspects of remote sensing, and a consensus had been reached that remote sensing had had and might well continue to have a favourable impact on developing countries. In a speech to the participants, Pope John Paul II had stressed the importance of the new technique of remote sensing in combating the encroaching desert, which imperiled the livelihood of a large percentage of the world's population. With the help of remote sensing, it was possible to give useful advice in a wide range of areas affecting crops, to detect the presence of concealed sources of energy and to bring about a more just distribution of the Earth's resources. The Pope had noted, however, that there was still a lack of firm determination in political circles to make proper use of those technological means, and he had warned that progress must not be the exclusive privilege of the favoured few. Development was the new name for peace.

18. Miss EMARA (Egypt) said that it was in the interest of all mankind to promote the exploration of outer space and its utilization for peaceful purposes and to prevent any arms race or confrontation there. A link clearly existed between outer space and peace and international security. The rapid technological progress in the field must help bring about social and economic progress in all nations, and in the developing countries in particular.

19. Her delegation was pleased that the consensus reached at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly was still reflected in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two sub-Committees. Substantial progress had been reached. Her delegation hoped that the General Assembly would unanimously adopt the principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from space and welcomed the consensus on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and on the draft principles relating to notification and to assistance to States.

(Miss Emara, Egypt)

20. Her delegation supported the 1987 Programme on Space Applications and was concerned about the lack of available resources for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

21. Egypt supported the establishment of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and the choice of the theme "Space communications for development" for its 1987 session. It supported the proposal made by the Group of 77 to include a new item entitled "Access by States to benefits of the exploration and uses of outer space" in the Sub-Committee's agenda.

22. Egypt had been one of the first countries to demand a complete ban on the use of outer space for military purposes. Her delegation felt that the international agreements in force did not always prevent the militarization of space. Her Government hoped that an agreement could be reached as soon as possible on the specific manner in which the Committee could ensure that outer space continued to be used for peaceful purposes.

23. Mr. MIMOUNI (Algeria) said that the considerable progress achieved in the field of space research must be made available to all mankind. Space should be used exclusively for peaceful means, and yet in recent years, activities in that field had clearly undergone a profound transformation, moving gradually towards military objectives. In view of the absence of progress at the Conference on Disarmament and in bilateral negotiations between the great Powers, the Committee could not take a wait-and-see attitude, even if disarmament questions were not part of its mandate.

24. His delegation hoped that the budgetary reductions were only temporary and that in the future the Programme on Space Applications would receive the resources needed. A great effort should be made to apply the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

25. Although they had undeniable merits, the draft principles relating to remote sensing by no means met the needs of the developing countries or respected the rights of the State observed. The draft principles were accepted by some delegations only on the condition that the Committee should continue to work on the question in order to find more satisfying answers to the concerns of the developing countries. Each draft principle included a safety clause of sorts that made its application uncertain. His delegation wondered how a developing country affected by a remote sensing programme might legitimately obtain information concerning it if one of the principles contained the restriction that such information was to be transmitted "to the greatest extent feasible and practicable". He also wondered how international co-operation could be intensified when participation in a remote sensing programme by a sensed State was carried out on a "request" basis, an arrangement which, a fortiori, would require "equitable and mutually acceptable terms" or "mutually agreed terms". For that reason, his delegation supported the proposal to include a new item in the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee entitled "Access by States to benefits of the exploration and uses of outer space".

(Mr. Mimouni, Algeria)

26. In order to maintain the effectiveness of the Legal Sub-Committee, its future sessions should not be subject to cuts.

27. His Government was pleased at the progress made by the Committee on the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and welcomed the adoption of the two draft principles on notification and assistance to States.

28. No definition existed of the notion of outer space, and international law did not delimit the boundary between airspace, which was subject to the sovereignty of States, and outer space. Such a question was by no means purely theoretical or premature. Further, the Committee should pursue its examination of the character of the geostationary orbit; that would highlight the need to regulate and make equitable use of that limited natural resource.

29. Mr. OKELY (Australia) said that Australia was committed to the basic proposition that outer space should be preserved for peaceful purposes and that the efforts of the Committee must be directed towards that goal. It remained convinced that decision-making by consensus in the Committee was the most effective way to work.

30. His delegation welcomed the success of the Legal Sub-Committee in drafting a set of principles on remote sensing. It should now take up with more vigour the difficult task of developing draft principles relating to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space. Australia continued to believe, however, that, in the interest of economy, the length of the Legal Sub-Committee's session should be reduced to two weeks in line with the meetings of the Committee itself and that there was considerable potential for the Sub-Committee to make more effective use of its time and resources.

31. Australia tended to place more emphasis on the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which continued to focus on issues that were of real concern, particularly to developing countries. His delegation had noted that the Committee had endorsed the Sub-Committee's recommendations on nuclear power sources. It was the view of his delegation that the topic deserved further consideration and that that work could be done most effectively by a working group established by the Sub-Committee rather than by the Sub-Committee itself.

32. His delegation considered that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should direct its energies to the matters contained in its mandate, under four separate headings, namely: review of the scope of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space; the design of programmes in that field to be undertaken under United Nations auspices; encouragement of continued research and dissemination of information on research; and a study of the legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space.

33. Australia supported all efforts designed to ensure that outer space was used for peaceful purposes. There were however some military activities in that realm that actually contributed to the maintenance and promotion of peace, security and

(Mr. Okely, Australia)

stability, namely, satellites that assisted in verifying compliance with arms control agreements and those which enabled crises on Earth to be effectively monitored so that early warning would be given of military developments. At the Conference on Disarmament the Australian Government had proposed measures to protect from attack all satellites and their ground stations which contributed to the preservation of peace and strategic stability.

34. Mr. MANSA (Burkina Faso) said that scientific developments, particularly the increasing use of research satellites, had clearly demonstrated that outer space could be used for the benefit of mankind. Unfortunately such developments had served primarily the interests of the developed countries which had been responsible for their discovery and which were not always ready to share the new technology with the developing countries, particularly the African countries, whose needs were urgent and real. A number of rather inadequate gestures had been made to the developing countries but they were not enough. As an example, five remote sensing centres had been set up in Africa, thanks to the efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa but, 12 years later, results, while positive, had not been completely satisfactory. His delegation was gratified that the Ouagadougou centre had become one of the most dynamic centres and hoped that similar efforts would be made to make the other centres equally effective. The Ouagadougou centre had completed its first development phase in terms of the establishment of a central administration, the installation of technical and teaching equipment and in staff training. Following difficult negotiations with its financial partners, including UNDP, FAO, USAID and the European Development Fund, it had recently initiated its second development phase, valued at 10 billion CFA francs. In normal circumstances the programme might be expected to provide member and other countries which wished to use its services, with a potent instrument for research in the fields of agriculture, hydraulics, geology, demographics and ecology.

35. Development must, however, take place within a framework of international co-operation designed to reserve outer space exclusively for peaceful uses. Burkina Faso therefore deplored the efforts of certain powerful members of COPUOS to create divergencies and delays on that issue. His delegation was of the view that international co-operation for the peaceful uses of outer space would only become possible when the great Powers had decided to end their arms race and, above all, to rid the world of nuclear weapons. So long as the arms race continued there was no doubt that outer space would be under the permanent threat of militarization. His delegation therefore considered that, although the Committee was not the principal body with responsibility for disarmament questions, it should nevertheless play a supporting role to the Conference on Disarmament by submitting firm proposals within the limits of its own mandate.

36. Mr. NUÑEZ MARTIN (Cuba) said that in recent years the activities of the Committee had been paralyzed by a minority of its members, particularly the United States of America, which continued to pursue a policy based on the arms race and "Star Wars". As a consequence, the Committee had been unable to make any useful progress on the development of means whereby outer space could be reserved for peaceful purposes. The struggle for peace and for the reduction of nuclear and

(Mr. Nufiez Martin, Cuba)

other weapons was not the exclusive competence of the great Powers and it was imperative that the other States should stand up and demand that those who regarded the armaments industry as a source of expanding profits should be made to comply with the rule of reason. The Mexico Declaration approved on 7 August 1986 had made specific recommendations whereby the arms race could be ended and the September Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, had urged that agreements should be reached for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. In that connection, the Soviet Union, in the aftermath of the Reykjavik meeting, had once again reiterated its proposals for the elimination of nuclear weapons. As Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro had announced recently, it was imperialism and not socialism which had refused to end nuclear tests and the arms race.

37. COPUOS, as the organ competent to deal with all aspects of the use of outer space, should not only play a role in preventing the extension of the arms race to outer space; it should also consider effective measures to preserve it for peaceful uses. Such aspects should be incorporated in the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee. In that connection his Government supported the proposals contained in document A/AC.105/L.161 and, in particular, the proposal of the Soviet Union that an international conference should be convened for the purpose of promoting world-wide co-operation in the appropriate use of outer space.

38. His delegation supported the adoption of the draft principles on remote sensing which the Legal Sub-Committee had adopted by consensus but shared the views expressed in paragraph 60 of the Committee's report (A/41/20 and Corr.1). The document did not however define the priority which should be given to the sensed State as regards the information obtained over its territory, nor did it specify the control which should be exercised over non-governmental entities which performed remote sensing services on behalf of States. Cuba reiterated its recognition of the role of the Committee in the preparation of norms and principles which should regulate the activities of States in relation to the geostationary orbit. The issues of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and the geostationary orbit should therefore be retained on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee in view of their technical, legal and practical aspects. The proposal submitted by the Soviet Union on criteria for distinguishing between airspace and outer space and the proposal of the German Democratic Republic containing principles regulating the activities of States in regard to the use of the geostationary orbit represented an acceptable basis for the study recommended by the General Assembly.

39. His delegation considered that consideration of the issue of nuclear power sources should be continued. He also expressed the hope that the members would take into account the proposal of the Group of 77 for the inclusion of a new item in the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee and that means would be found whereby those States which were least developed in space technology might benefit from the results achieved.

40. Mr. AZIKIWE (Nigeria) said that the proposed programmes for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 were of particular interest to the developing countries because they would enhance the training of indigenous technicians and also promote the systematic application of space activities for socio-economic development. It was hoped that the programmes and various activities would receive maximum support from Member States in order to ensure their continuity.

41. His Government, through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, has hosted a seminar on remote sensing technology in national development in 1985. To promote the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, Nigeria would host in 1987 the United Nations Meeting of Experts on Space Science and Technology and Applications within the framework of Educational Systems for the benefit of the member countries of ECA and ESCWA. It was gratifying to note that similar meetings would be hosted elsewhere in 1987.

42. His delegation commended the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen regional mechanisms in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/162. Nigeria would co-operate in the Working Group of the Whole to be established in 1987 within the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 with regard to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

43. Although his country had been pleased to join in the consensus on the draft principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from space, it would continue to stress the need to take account of the concerns of the developing countries in implementing those principles. In that regard, it was essential to respect the sovereignty of the sensed States over their natural resources and to notify those States before dissemination of information obtained through remote sensing to third parties. Nigeria acknowledged the need to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. The work to be done in that regard in the two Sub-Committees should complement the work carried out in the Conference on Disarmament. The question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space could be approached best if measures to prevent the extension of an arms race into outer space were also elaborated. He hoped that a common position could be achieved on that question before the two Sub-Committees began work in 1987.

44. With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, his delegation felt that precautionary measures should be taken to mitigate harmful effects resulting from the unplanned re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere of space vehicles with nuclear power sources on board. It was gratifying to note that progress had been made on that question. The formulations agreed upon under the heads "Assistance to States" and "Notification" were vital achievements. He hoped that further efforts would be made in 1987 to reach agreement on the outstanding issues. The question of the geostationary orbit and the related issue of the radio-frequency spectrum were very important. His delegation continued to support the concept of the geostationary orbit as the common heritage of mankind, in accordance with the relevant articles of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. Steps should be taken to ensure the more efficient and economic utilization of the orbit for the benefit of all mankind.

(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

45. Nigeria favoured the concept of the definition and delimitation of outer space. His Government had proposed the altitude of 90 kilometres above the Earth's surface as the upper limit of territorial airspace and the lower limit of outer space. That position was based on recent technological advances in space science and technology, which had considerably decreased the altitude and perigee of satellites above the Earth. Accordingly, the definition and delimitation of outer space would make it possible to overcome the adverse effects of such advances and guarantee State sovereignty and territorial integrity.

46. Mr. ZAREMBOVSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in the 25 years since the historic space flight of Yury Gagarin there had been significant progress in space science in the exploration and use of outer space for the good of mankind. The successful execution of the large-scale "Venus-Halley's Comet" project, in which the scientists and specialists of a number of socialist and capitalist countries had actively participated, had once again underscored the effectiveness of combining the scientific and technological potential of various States in the peaceful exploration of outer space. It was extremely regrettable that the plans of the United States to introduce weapons into outer space had dimmed the hopes of mankind in that regard and threatened to turn outer space into a source of mortal danger for all.

47. The prevention of an arms race in outer space together with disarmament, particularly the elimination of nuclear weapons, were the basic prerequisites for maintaining peace on Earth. New types of weapons, instead of strengthening security, only increased the level of military confrontation. The introduction of nuclear strike weapons into outer space would greatly increase the danger of nuclear war.

48. Security must be sought through political means. In that regard, it was necessary to rise above narrow, selfish interests and recognize the responsibility of States for the future of the world. Reykjavik had demonstrated that that new approach made it possible to achieve far-reaching agreements on the nuclear and outer space problems. "Star Wars", on the other hand, would only halt the movement toward disarmament. After Reykjavik, a rethinking of values and positions was essential. The old way of thinking and acting would inevitably lead mankind to the nuclear abyss.

49. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries had persistently advocated the prohibition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and broad international co-operation in using outer space for the good of all people. The Soviet programme called for the complete elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction, and an agreement between the Soviet Union, the United States and the leading industrial Powers on the prohibition of space strike weapons. Furthermore, the Soviet Union proposed that a considerable portion of the resources thus released should be used to promote peaceful co-operation in the exploration of outer space.

(Mr. Zarembovsky, Byelorussian SSR)

50. Rapid progress at the negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on nuclear and space weapons was essential. Effective agreements should be drawn up to prevent an arms race in outer space and halt it on earth, strengthen strategic stability, and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons everywhere. Practical steps must be taken to elaborate and implement large-scale joint projects for the peaceful exploration of outer space in order to ensure progress on earth and establish a comprehensive system of international security. In that regard, he stressed the close link between preventing an arms race in outer space and promoting peaceful international exploration there.

51. The Soviet Union had proposed an extensive programme of joint practical measures for the peaceful exploration of outer space which would lay a solid material, political, legal and organizational basis for "star peace". All the necessary prerequisites for the successful implementation of those proposals already existed. States must combine their efforts within multifaceted organizational structures to use the fruits of space exploration for the good of all States, in part by offering comprehensive assistance in that area to the developing countries.

52. The areas in which global peaceful co-operation in space could be developed were truly inexhaustible. The problem of space in all its complexity and the establishment of basic areas for a large-scale international co-operation in space and principles to govern it could be considered at a suitable international gathering, which might be convened before 1990. Such a gathering could approve a programme of co-operation for the 1990s and the following 10 to 15 years.

53. The requisite new organizational structure for such co-operation could be set up by a world space organization established by the gathering to be convened. Those preparatory measures, including preparations for the gathering, might be entrusted to COPUOS. The world space organization would operate on a basis of mutual advantage and would guarantee States non-discriminatory access to the results of co-operation in the peaceful conquest of space. Developing States could participate in international projects under preferential conditions. The world space organization could be a universal international organization with its own charter, linked to the United Nations and responsible for co-ordinating the execution of specialized programmes. Its activities would include working for the peaceful conquest of outer space and monitoring compliance with agreements to ban the extension of the arms race to outer space.

54. The joint exploitation of outer space by all States for peaceful purposes offered mankind breathtaking prospects for development. Preparation for "Star Wars", on the other hand, would lead straight to nuclear self-destruction. "Star peace", founded on broad international co-operation and the prevention of an arms race in outer space, must become the basis for a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.