

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records



FIRST COMMITTEE, 1980th
MEETING

Thursday, 6 December 1973,
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda items 30 and 31 (<i>continued</i>):	
International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	
Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	683

Chairman: Mr. Otto R. BORCH (Denmark).

AGENDA ITEMS 30 AND 31 (*continued*)

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/9020 and Corr.1, A/C.1/L.669)

Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/9020 and Corr.1, A/C.1/L.669)

1. Mr. MEHDI (Pakistan): My delegation has noted with keen interest the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [A/9020 and Corr.1] and listened with appreciation to the comprehensive presentation of it by Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria at the 1977th meeting.

2. My delegation has been ever conscious of the potential inherent in this rapidly developing field of human skill and ingenuity and has always thought that this area of human endeavour should be harnessed to serve the best possible interests of mankind as a whole and has consistently striven towards that goal. One has only to glance at the scientific achievements in the area of space technology to realize the tremendous impact they will have, and are having, on the human individual. To take a few random examples, through the Molniya I-22 communication satellite it is possible for the Soviet Union to relay television programmes and telephone and telegraph messages across northern Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia. Apollo 17 made it possible for the United States of America to conduct specific exploration of the Moon; through Nimbus 5 it can assist shipping and study data on coastal changes. Luna 21 and Lunokhod 2 permit detailed survey of the lunar surface. Man is now able to monitor and photograph such far-away planets as Jupiter and is able to operate manned space stations in orbit.

3. Compared to the above-mentioned achievements, Pakistan's programme must seem modest indeed. However, it is worth recounting in order to underscore the interest that

my country has in outer space technology. In September 1961 Pakistan established its Committee on Space Research. Within a record period of nine months, it was able to launch its first Nike rocket. This was the first such launching in Asia and perhaps in the whole developing world with the exception of one country. Since then Pakistan has developed an active programme devoted to elucidating the ionospheric profile of Pakistan and researching the structure of the upper atmosphere. So far Pakistan has launched 70 meteorological rockets and 30 two-stage sounding rockets for exploration of the upper atmosphere.

4. In 1963 Pakistan started manufacturing its own rockets. The first Pakistan-manufactured Centaur rocket was launched in 1969 and the first Dragon rocket was launched in 1972. Both rockets carried sodium pay-loads to study structure and windfield in the upper atmosphere. Pakistan has obtained a link-up with the Tyros satellite and has a programme of obtaining pictures of weather conditions over its territory and the neighbouring areas. It has established a ground receiving station for telecommunications through satellites. Pakistan is an active member of the Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU).

5. As a developing country, Pakistan cannot afford to undertake much of the space research on its own. It has therefore developed co-operative programmes with several advanced countries. It has collaborative arrangements with the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) of the United States of America, the Science and Research Council of the United Kingdom and the Centre national d'études spatiales of France. It is exploring the possibility of similar arrangements with the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan.

6. In the area of technical and scientific activities in the peaceful exploration of outer space, Pakistan has consistently and most devotedly endorsed the view that space technology should find particular relevance in its application to the economic development of developing countries. The General Assembly recently adopted resolution 3182 (XXVIII) on this subject. We feel that it would be desirable to undertake an assessment and evaluation of the concrete benefits resulting to the developing countries from the application of space technology. Such a study, we feel, should pay particular attention to remote sensing of earth resources and direct broadcasting through satellites. In regard to the latter, we would like to express the view that the free flow of communication should be devoid of political bias and that such a flow should take cognizance of the sovereign rights of States without external interference in each other's domestic affairs.

7. The ever-increasing participation in and response to programmes designed to promote practical application of space technology by the developing countries is a significant indication of their desire to play a role in this scientific endeavour and to use the most modern discoveries in the technological field for the purpose of raising the living standards of their people. As a manifestation of such a desire, we have consistently advocated a greater share of participation by developing countries, especially those that have developed a programme of space and upper atmospheric research, in the deliberations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

8. We believe the time has come to enlarge the Committee. It was established several years ago, in the context of a certain set of political realities that have long since lost their validity. The last change in the membership of the Committee took place some 12 years ago, and in the opinion of my delegation the present membership of 28 does no justice to the principle of equitable geographical representation. As constituted, the Committee is rather unbalanced and not in conformity with the pattern of regional representation prevailing at the United Nations and in other bodies.

9. The Pakistan delegation has for some years sought the enlargement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, but without any success. As is evident from paragraph 67 of the report, there is still a considerable difference of opinion among the members of the Committee regarding its enlargement. It is quite obvious that the Committee, which incidentally operates on the principle of consensus, is and will remain unable to take a decision on this very important matter. We in the Pakistan delegation therefore see little merit in the recommendation that the General Assembly should request the Committee itself to undertake a study and formulate concrete proposals concerning the enlargement of its membership and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.

10. We are strongly of the opinion that in principle it is not desirable to ask any body to pronounce on its own composition. That is rightly the prerogative of the General Assembly and should not be diluted or ceded. We urge that the Assembly take a decision at this session to enlarge the Committee. We have undertaken informal consultations with like-minded delegations and have come to the conclusion that an increase in membership by another 14 members or so would be enough to do justice to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

11. We stress the need for immediate enlargement because of the growing importance of outer-space technology, which in the coming years will affect every individual's day-to-day existence. It is only fair and just that concerned representatives should be provided with a voice in the forum whose deliberations will undoubtedly have a significant impact on their lives.

12. Having said that, I should like to mention that my delegation is not unaware of the reluctance on the part of some, and particularly on the part of the many staff members of the Committee, concerning its enlargement. We are, however, not persuaded by their arguments. Practically every other body in the United Nations has been enlarged

to reflect adequately the increased membership of the United Nations. We therefore fail to understand why that very principle should not be applied to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

13. With due deference to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.669, I must say that we were frankly disappointed to see that that draft resolution not only would defer the matter for another year but would impose on the Committee itself a study regarding its enlargement. My delegation, in concert with other delegations of the African, Asian and Latin American groups, would be willing to propose suitable amendments to the draft resolutions under consideration in order to enable the General Assembly to decide on an appropriate enlargement this year and to enable the President of the General Assembly to nominate interested Member States to the Committee, in consultation with the respective regional groups and the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for a fuller realization of the principle of equitable geographical representation.

14. Mr. ORSO (Mongolia) (*translation from Russian*): As has been pointed out here by previous speakers, since the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly new outstanding successes have been achieved in research into outer space: for example, the successful flight of Soyuz 12, the Lunokhod 2 experiments, the flight to Mars of the Soviet Mars Stations, the Apollo 17 flight, the launching of the Skylab orbital stations and the flight of the American Pioneer to Jupiter. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States on their outstanding achievements in the conquest of outer space.

15. We should like to mention also the contributions of other countries to research into and the use of outer space. There is no doubt that the expanding and deepening of international co-operation among States Members of the United Nations in research into and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes have been favourably influenced by the positive changes that have recently been occurring in the international situation. The confirmation of the principles of peaceful coexistence in international relations has opened the way to broad prospects for the development of mutually advantageous scientific links and exchanges of experience and the use of the advances of science for the practical needs of all countries. The forthcoming joint flight of the spaceships Soyuz and Apollo is an important milestone in the development of international co-operation in space research.

16. The flight of orbital stations with interchange of crews opens up new possibilities for co-operation in space. We are already witnessing the broadening of such forms of co-operation among different countries in the various fields of space research, such as exchange of information, the co-ordinated launching of meteorological satellites and research rockets, joint experiments on specific scientific and technological problems, preparation of joint studies, broadening of contacts among scientists and specialists, exchange of samples and photographs of the lunar surface, observation of satellites in accordance with a co-ordinated programme, and so forth.

17. A typical feature of the development of space research at the present stage is the rapid increase in its practical significance for mankind as a whole. Specifically, my own country is now feeling the favourable effects of international co-operation in the field of space research and the use of outer space.
18. The People's Republic of Mongolia is a participant in the international system of space communications, Inter-sputnik. Mongolia is one of the first countries on whose territory earth television stations have been built in accordance with that orbital system. Mongolian specialists and scientists are taking part in various scientific research operations in the fields of space physics, meteorology, space communications, biology and medicine, and are engaging in terrestrial observation of satellites.
19. The delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic is taking part in the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the belief that success in the work of that Committee can make a great contribution to the practical harnessing of the results of space research to the benefit of all countries.
20. I should like now to make a few brief comments on the report submitted to us by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Our delegation wishes to associate itself with the previous speakers who have expressed their satisfaction with the work of the Committee over the last year.
21. We take a favourable view of the results achieved by the Legal Sub-Committee at its spring session, in which it agreed on a number of provisions for the draft treaty relating to the moon, and on the text of the preamble and ten draft articles of the convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. We feel, however, that there was every ground to expect the work on the draft texts of those important documents to be completed. As we know, in the draft treaty relating to the moon there still remain unresolved, up to the present day, certain very important questions, such as the scope of the treaty and the legal régime to govern the natural resources of the moon. In order to resolve those questions and other outstanding questions involved in the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space, we must exert new efforts in a spirit of co-operation.
22. Our delegation would like to point out that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its last session quite properly laid stress on the discussion of such important matters as the remote sensing of earth resources by means of space technology and the promotion and practical application of space technology. We believe that in the future the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should take steps to eliminate a certain duplication in the work of the Sub-Committee and its Working Group.
23. We share the view of those who consider that direct television broadcasting by satellite should serve the cause of peace and international co-operation and promote the exchange of scientific and cultural information. It is precisely for the achievement of this objective that an international legal régime and the rules governing direct television broadcasting must be worked out.
24. Our delegation welcomes the Committee's decision that at its next session the Legal Sub-Committee should consider the matter of preparing a series of principles governing direct television broadcasting. We consider that this question should be given very high priority.
25. In conclusion, I should like to express the hope that the General Assembly will decide to encourage the early conclusion of the work of preparing the treaty relating to the moon and the convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space, and also the formulation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting.
26. Mr. ABDEL MEGUID (Egypt) (*interpretation from French*): We have before us the report (A/9020) of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space covering the work of the sixteenth session of the Committee, contained in document A/9020 and Corr.1. The Chairman of that Committee, Mr. Jankowitsch, representative of Austria, submitted that report to us with his usual clarity and gave us an over-all view of the work done [*1977th meeting*], thus making it easier for us to discuss items 30 and 31 of our agenda. I do not wish to let this opportunity pass without offering the congratulations of my delegation to Ambassador Jankowitsch on the efficient manner in which he has presided over the work of the Committee. We also wish to express our thanks to Mr. Rydbeck of Sweden, to the Ambassador of Poland, to Mr. Carver of Australia, and to Mr. Fiorio of Italy, who presided very competently over the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies.
27. I shall limit myself now to certain specific remarks on a few matters covered in the report before us.
28. With regard to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, no agreement was reached on article X of the draft treaty relating to the Moon, and this lack of agreement was an important obstacle to completion of the draft treaty. As far as my delegation is concerned, it, together with those of other developing countries, considers that the exploitation of the Moon's natural resources should be carried on in accord with the principle that they are a common heritage of mankind and that that exploitation should be governed by an international régime that would guarantee the rational utilization and management of the natural resources of the moon. The benefits accruing from that exploitation should be equitably distributed among all States, with the needs of the developing nations particularly borne in mind.
29. With regard to the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, we are gratified that a series of draft articles that might almost be termed complete had been arrived at, including a text that is acceptable on the review of the Treaty, which was the result of additional efforts carried out in the course of the sixteenth session of the plenary Committee. The article on revision takes into account the speed of space technique evolution at the moment, but the lack of agreement on a text of an article on marking prevented completion of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. Thanking in particular the delegations of

France and Canada for the constructive proposals they put forward either individually or jointly in the preparation of this draft convention, my delegation wishes at the same time to express its optimism that the draft may be completed in 1974 and that the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly will adopt it.

30. When speaking of the order of priorities to be set for the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee, my delegation, as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.669, believes that, after having prepared the draft treaty relating to the moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, the Legal Sub-Committee should prepare the legal principles governing the question of direct broadcast satellites and those governing remote sensing of the earth's resources by satellites and also the definition of space and outer space.

31. With regard to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, my delegation supports the programme of implementation of space techniques for 1974 as set forth in paragraph 19 of the Sub-Committee's report [A/AC.105/116]. However, my delegation hopes that the programme for future years will be expanded in order to take into account the needs of the developing countries in the field of space applications. In the programme itself, Egypt in 1974 will be host to a regional seminar on the application of remote sensing. The Egyptian programme, which receives technical assistance from the National Science Foundation of the United States, has begun, in collaboration with the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat, to prepare the seminar which is to take place in Cairo in September 1974. We would be very grateful if the space Powers which are in a position to send experts and instructors to participate in the seminar would do so.

32. The Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites has made considerable progress in the course of its 1973 session. My delegation, together with other members of the Committee, felt that it was imperative that a special group should be set up limiting itself to defining the different possibilities of dissemination and optimal utilization of information on the environment and the earth's resources obtained by remote sensing of the earth by satellites. We felt that this would contribute to encouraging the applications of space technology.

33. With regard to the application of space techniques in Egypt, a National Committee of Co-ordination was created in 1972 in the Academy of Scientific and Technical Research. In that Committee are representatives of the Environment Research Council, the Research Council on Petroleum and Mining Resources, the Research Council on Animal Resources, the Research Council on Soil and Irrigation, the Research Council on Applied Science, the Research Council on Plant Resources, the Research Council on Basic Science, the Telecommunications Organization, the Ministry of Higher Education, and the Ministry of Information including the Radio and Television Services. The Committee holds periodic meetings and its rapporteur ensures liaison with the Foreign Ministry, the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations, and the secretariats of specialized agencies, as well as space authorities in different countries.

34. In the preparation of the legal principles governing direct broadcast satellites, we believe that the following two factors should be taken into account: first, the vast prospects that will be opened up in encouraging cultural exchanges and exchanges of information, particularly in the developing countries; and secondly, the need to guarantee conditions that will allow only the noble cause of peace and friendly relations to be served while respecting the sovereignty of States in this matter, in particular, the question of whether the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects [resolution 2777 (XXVI), *annex*] is a safeguard against any abuses that might affect the legitimate interests of States.

35. On this point, during the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, my delegation greeted the constructive proposal of the Soviet Union on a convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting.¹ In the course of the last session of the Working Group, Canada and Sweden also made very interesting proposals [see A/AC.105/117, *annex IV*]. Although the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2916 (XXVII), the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites was unable to study the Soviet proposal, which is still to be examined by the Legal Sub-Committee, because the Working Group lacked a mandate on this matter from the main Committee and because of a shortage of time. So there is still on the 1974 agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee and of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites the question of the implementation of resolution 2916 (XXVII) calling for the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. But it is now time for the Committee as a whole to hold a brief meeting, either at the conclusion of the General Assembly or at the beginning of 1974, in order to organize the work and to allocate duties to its subsidiary organs, bearing in mind the resolutions which the General Assembly will have adopted during this session.

36. The question of the enlargement of membership of the Committee was not sufficiently examined during its sixteenth session. Paragraph 67 of the Committee's report reflects the results of the discussions that took place on the subject. However, my delegation feels that there would be no point in repeating here our support for the enlargement of the Committee, which is necessary if its composition is to reflect more faithfully the changes which have taken place in the United Nations since it was last enlarged resulting from the admission of many new Members coming mainly from the developing countries. We must also take into account the fact that given the special nature of the work of the Committee, whose deliberations are conducted on the basis of consensus, enlargement of its composition should be restricted and qualified.

37. Finally, my delegation is in complete agreement with the suggestion to increase the effectiveness of the Division, as announced to the Committee by Mr. Schevchenko, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, *Annexes*, agenda items 28, 29 and 37, document A/8771.

38. Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): We fully share the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has made considerable progress during the past year, and we feel that the effective and skilful work of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Jankowitsch, has contributed to a large extent to the achievement of its goals. We would therefore like most warmly to congratulate him on the work done and to repeat to him the readiness of the Argentine delegation to continue to give him its broadest co-operation.

39. We believe that the work that has been undertaken in outer space has to continue on wider and more solid bases of international co-operation and therefore we have no doubt that what we are undertaking today is an obligation towards future generations, an obligation that must be fulfilled primarily through the Organization. All the nations represented here, and particularly those that are in the vanguard of the utilization of outer space, should make considerable additional efforts to fulfil the responsibilities to which I have referred. The utilization of outer space is no longer an activity which concerns only a few States that possess the economic and technological means to carry out significant programmes. Today it is a field in which an increasing number of other States participate and it is one that should be of interest to all members of the international community, bearing particularly in mind the practical applications that have been derived from space technology as well as the fact that from the exploration of outer space itself we have come to a projection of space activities back to earth. Remote sensing of the natural resources of our planet by satellite and direct broadcasting by satellite are only the most recent examples of the projection back to earth to which I am referring and which, therefore, affects us all.

40. Having made those general comments, which we consider to be basic in noting the importance of the question before us, I shall very succinctly but in sufficient detail make known the main views of my delegation regarding the items on our agenda which we are now considering.

41. First of all, I should like to express the appreciation of my delegation for the recommendation made by the Outer Space Committee that the United Nations continue to sponsor the CELPA launching station in Argentina. We trust that that recommendation will be ratified by the General Assembly and we are convinced that that vote of confidence will allow us to continue to offer this clear example of what is meant by international co-operation when channelled through the Organization.

42. I should like also to express our gratification at the way in which the United Nations programme on the promotion of space application has progressed. Our praise must be extended to Mr. Murthy, who is in charge of the implementation of the programme. We note with satisfaction that at this very time he is participating in a panel on remote sensing of the earth being held in Argentina and we trust that he will be able with the same success to complete the work that he began in 1973. We believe that this programme is highly beneficial to all States and particularly the developing States. Therefore we feel that the General

Assembly should provide for a continuation and expansion of the programme, taking these matters into account.

43. The budget of \$87,000 allocated for 1974 for this purpose seems to be very modest if we bear in mind the potential benefits of the programme and, furthermore, if we consider that the United Nations Expert had proposed an amount of \$130,000 to ensure the full implementation of the programme during that period. Thus we believe that in the near future the budgetary allocations should be increased in order to make them more in accordance with the basic objectives of the programme; perhaps these funds could be supplemented by voluntary contributions that States might wish to make.

44. In the matter of remote sensing of the earth by satellite, we are happy to note the progress achieved in the Working Group on the subject and in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, particularly regarding the scientific, technical and economic aspects of that activity and the study of its practical applications and benefits. We trust that that work will continue with renewed enthusiasm next year so that the relevant conclusions on the subject can be drawn. We share the majority view that thorough studies should be started on the juridical and political implications of these activities as well as on aspects of their organization at the international level. At the forthcoming sessions of both the Working Group and the Legal Sub-Committee special emphasis should be placed on these problems. We are also aware that the delay in discussing and solving these problems promptly might have serious effects on the relations of friendship and co-operation that should govern the conduct of States. As a result of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies [*resolution 2222 (XXI) annex*], international co-operation is now a legal obligation which governs the legitimacy of activities of activities carried out in outer space. Furthermore, it is self-evident that the remote sensing of the territory of a foreign State without its prior consent is an illicit international act which the international community should avoid and, if it nevertheless occurs, should punish.

45. We believe it is imperative that, as the first measure, the Legal Sub-Committee should next year reply to the request for an opinion on legal consequences addressed to it by the Working Group and that at the 1975 session the Sub-Committee should conclude detailed consideration of these normative aspects, in order to allow the Outer Space Committee to submit to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly its final conclusions on the matter, that is to say, the legal parameters and the parameters relating to international organization that should govern these activities. There is, we know, abundant material on the matter. These questions have been studied in governmental bodies and conferences as well as non-governmental meetings, and the Secretary-General himself in chapters IV and V of his background document of 12 June 1973 [*A/AC.105/118*] gives particular attention to these matters. Also, the delegations of France and the Soviet Union respectively have submitted this year a series of legal principles that should govern remote sensing. We believe the time is ripe for undertaking a study of these important legal questions

and questions relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellite, since they are intimately related. There is in fact a legal vacuum, and it is our duty to avoid the continuance of this international normative deficiency without delay, because it is no longer a question of merely exploring outer space or using it but of space activities oriented towards the earth.

46. We trust that very soon we shall have the necessary elements to complete the studies that we have pointed out, recommending an adequate international system which, while safeguarding the sovereignty of States over their respective territories and their natural resources, will allow these techniques of inventory and study of such resources to be used for the benefit of all mankind. That is precisely what is envisaged in article I of the draft international agreement on activities carried out through remote sensing satellite surveys of earth resources, submitted by the Argentine delegation in 1970 at the ninth session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee and annexed to the report of that body in document A/AC.105/85.

47. With regard to the subject of satellites for direct television broadcasting, we see again a similar legal gap that should be bridged by the formulation of legal principles leading to the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements, as recommended in General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII). The Working Group competent to undertake an interdisciplinary study of the matter has, quite encouragingly, renewed its work this year, and for this we are grateful. It will be up to that group, therefore, to complete next year the tasks which it has begun. At the same time, the Legal Sub-Committee should devote itself during the next session to the formulation of the legal principles to which I have referred.

48. The UNESCO Declaration of Guiding Principles on the Use of Satellite Broadcasting for the Free Flow of Information, the Spread of Education and Greater Cultural Exchange, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1972, the draft convention presented that same year by the Soviet Union to the General Assembly, the results of the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications, held at Geneva in 1971, and the legal principles proposed by Canada and France at the last session of the Working Group, all constitute, *inter alia*, useful elements for the work we are suggesting. In suggesting that it be carried out we are convinced that it should be aimed at ensuring that the means of mass communication will be used as instruments of international co-operation for development, welfare and a greater understanding among peoples.

49. An over-restrictive approach would make it almost impossible to obtain the benefits from cultural exchange that could be achieved through these techniques; on the other hand, unlimited freedom in its use might jeopardize the cultural heritage, traditions, and the very concepts of economic and social development which each people and its government must protect. Thus it is a question of striking a proper balance between these factors. We believe it can be done, starting from two premises. First, that the prior consent of the receiving State must be obtained before direct broadcasting by a satellite of another State can take

place. Second, not only must rules of law be drafted, but forms of international co-operation defined that will allow both the broadcasting State and the receiving State fully to benefit from these activities by participating in carrying them out on the basis of mutual respect.

50. The Legal Sub-Committee and the Committee itself this year worked intensively to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies and the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. However, neither of them was completed and there are still important questions pending, although we must admit that considerable progress has been made on both subjects.

51. With regard to the first of the texts to which I have referred, the main difficulty confronting my delegation—as well as many others, whose position we share—lies in the non-acceptance by some delegations of the principle that the moon and other celestial bodies and their natural resources constitute a common heritage of mankind and, as such, are not subject to appropriation by any State. At the same time, my delegation contends that that declaration of the common heritage of mankind should be enshrined in the draft treaty without any reservations; that activities relating to the moon and other celestial bodies must be regulated by an international régime, and that the natural resources of these celestial bodies may not be exploited before such a régime is established.

52. Among the questions still pending I have cited only this one because its special importance illustrates the difficulties that confront us. May I recall that our delegation has not stinted its efforts to have these principles recognized. In fact, months before the General Assembly adopted the declaration in resolution 2749 (XXV), which set forth that the sea-bed and the ocean floor and its natural resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction constitutes the common heritage of mankind, the Argentine delegation had proposed that a similar principle should govern the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies. It did so in a draft international convention which appears in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee for 1970 [A/AC.105/85]. Consistently, therefore, at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, we continued that line of action. I refer to what was stated in annex I of the relevant report [A/AC.105/115].

53. In short, the views expressed in the two Argentine documents and in others that are similar and were submitted by other delegations, views which command broad support both in the Outer Space Committee and in the General Assembly, should lead us to consider the establishment of the principle of the common heritage of mankind and the consequences flowing therefrom as a fundamental prerequisite for the elaboration of a draft treaty on the subject.

54. With regard to the draft convention on registration, here too we are still confronting difficulties. As in the previous case, I shall limit myself to mentioning the crux of the most important unresolved question, as my delegation sees it. In this matter, my delegation has joined many others in the Committee in favour of the principle of compulsory marking of objects launched into outer space and of

notifying the Secretary-General of compliance with that requirement. We consider it necessary, if not imperative, that a provision to that effect be included in the draft convention, since it is quite easy to foresee the problems of identification that would arise—and in practice, they have arisen—in the case of re-entry of objects or parts thereof from outer space to the earth. These problems, including the impossibility of identifying the State launching such an object, would result in the impossibility of holding that State to account, or the absence of a subject responsible to the personal victims or for the material damage caused by the object or its parts. Furthermore, the lack of a system of compulsory marking would make it possible for objects to be launched into outer space without the necessary notification to the Secretary-General of the relevant data; for when it is difficult or impossible to identify an object or its parts returning to the earth, there would be no one to hold accountable for non-compliance with that legal obligation, regardless of whether there had been victims or material damage.

55. The general view of my delegation regarding these drafts, or others that may be prepared in the future, is that the respective instruments should be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, therefore, that the system of triple deposit, which we are still unable to understand, should not be continued. Furthermore, our delegation is, for good reason, opposed not only to the system of triple deposit but also to the fact that to it there is added the requirement of ratification by the three as a necessary prerequisite for the entry of the Treaty into force. Neither reason nor the sovereign equality of States is compatible with this system.

56. We trust that next year the Committee will be able to present us with the two instruments to which I have referred, duly completed. If not, we would have to recognize the circumstantial political impossibility of fulfilling these duties, and we would be forced to recommend that for 1975 the draft treaty on the moon be set aside in order to allow due consideration to be given other equally important and urgent items that have been somewhat delayed, such as those on the remote sensing of the earth's resources by satellite and on direct television broadcasts, and one that has even been further delayed and still appears on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee, namely, the definition or delimitation of outer space.

57. Finally, I should like to refer to a question that I would term a question of the structure of the Committee, although it is one to which my delegation and many other delegations attach major importance. At the 1972 session of that Committee we advocated the expansion of its membership. That idea was repeated at the last session of the General Assembly and again in the course of the meetings of the Committee this year. At all times this position was widely shared, account being taken of the fact that the Committee is composed of only 28 delegations and that its present composition dates back to 1961 and has not been brought up to date since that time, despite the considerable increase in the membership of the United Nations, and particularly despite the fact that the enormous majority of the new Members are developing countries. Furthermore, the welcome increase in space activities, and

particularly in the applications of space technology, as well as the projection of those activities from outer space to earth, have awakened a growing interest in these subjects and have led a number of delegations to wish to become members of the Committee. Thus, they and other nations could join the Committee, and their contribution not only would enrich the work of the Committee itself, but also would ensure that its composition would be more in accord with the present composition of the world Organization.

58. We trust that, at this session, the General Assembly will adopt the extremely necessary and belated decision on the matter and, as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we trust that we shall benefit very soon from the contribution of the new delegations that will be added to it.

59. Sir Laurence McINTYRE (Australia): I should first of all like to thank and congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Mr. Jankowitsch, for the lucid and comprehensive manner in which he introduced the report of the Committee. The report is an accurate reflection of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the year. It indicates the growing scope of space science and its increasing usefulness in direct application to the problems we face here on the earth. That this is reflected in an increasing number of subsidiary bodies of the Committee is, at the same time, a matter of some concern and my delegation trusts that that Committee can give some attention soon to rationalizing the work of its subsidiary bodies.

60. Any remarks about the increasing volume of work of the Committee would be incomplete without favourable comment also on the achievements of those countries that conduct activities in outer space. Present and future programmes, such as Skylab, the space shuttle and the planned joint United States-Soviet missions raise exciting possibilities. They have endowed the work of the Committee with a sense both of the urgency and of the reality of the problems with which it is trying to cope, notwithstanding the fact that many of them will only arise in the future.

61. The Legal Sub-Committee has always been one of its most effective and productive organs. It is disappointing that, despite the substantial progress made in 1972, the Sub-Committee was not able to conclude this year its work on the draft moon treaty or on the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space.

62. The main Committee itself made vigorous efforts to bridge the gaps that remain and some progress was made to the point where it should not be too much to expect that the Legal Sub-Committee will conclude its work on these two instruments at its next session, as well as responding to the requests from the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its views on legal aspects.

63. During the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, there was a great deal of soul-searching, particularly regarding the usefulness of the Sub-Committee. My delegation expressed its views on this matter at that time and later in the Outer Space Committee, and those views are recorded in the reports of those two bodies.

It is important to say here, however, particularly in view of the remarks made at the 1978th meeting by the representative of Indonesia regarding the growing interest among developing countries in the work of the Committee, that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is primarily concerned with space applications. Its role is to increase the knowledge of the international community as a whole about applications of space technology which may be of assistance in cultural, economic or other development. If the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is not proving satisfactory to all Members of the United Nations, part at least of the remedy will be found if those countries which at present do not make full use of what information and assistance is available under the United Nations space applications programme examine it carefully with a view to making their particular interests or requirements known.

64. My delegation also attaches importance to the role of the Sub-Committee in the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations in outer space. We look to the implementation of paragraphs 59 and 60 of the report of the Committee as a most useful contribution in this field.

65. I should like to turn now to the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellite, on which we can anticipate significant progress in the meetings of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee next year. The study of this subject, in the view of my delegation, must take account of all aspects, economic, administrative and legal, as well as the present and likely future applications of this technique. What is important is that there should be no hindrance to the development of technology in a field which could be of great benefit to all mankind. There are two quite distinct ways in which this development can be obstructed. First, the difficulties that have been foreseen in the application of the technique could be allowed to become in themselves obstacles to its use. Secondly, if arrangements are not made which protect the interests of States which are or may be affected, many countries may hesitate about co-operating in the use of the technique. It is the task of the Committee and the subsidiary organs charged with the responsibility of examining this subject to find solutions to both those problems.

66. Regarding the preparation of an international convention on direct satellite broadcasting, the Committee faces the problem of reconciling, on the one hand, the interests of States in the maximum possible freedom of information to all peoples and, on the other, the need to protect the interests of States whose cultures or economies may be affected by certain types of programmes compiled externally without taking account of their particular social, cultural or economic circumstances. The search for a proper balance will not be easy, but it is important that one be found before the technology is developed much further.

67. A number of delegations have referred to the question of the enlargement of the Outer Space Committee. Australia is a sponsor of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.669, which in paragraph 28 suggests a possible way of responding to the interest that is being shown in adding to the membership of the Committee. There are other

possible ways. My delegation maintains a flexible approach to this question, provided that any expansion of the Committee is such as will strengthen the Committee, whose justifiably high reputation we value and would want to protect.

68. Mr. GEHLHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany): This is the first time that my delegation, as a full Member of the United Nations, had had the opportunity of speaking on questions of outer space. Yet we have always observed with close attention the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Sub-Committees and Working Groups. My Government welcomes the success achieved so far by the United Nations, especially as regards the codification of legal provisions applying to outer space. The Federal Republic of Germany has thus ratified the Outer Space Treaty as well as the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space [*resolution 2345 (XXII)*], and it has initiated the procedure for ratification of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects [*resolution 2777 (XXVI)*]. It is our hope that the Committee will continue to make progress in its work on international law in order to preserve outer space as a zone of peace and co-operation for the benefit of all peoples of the earth.

69. My Government offers its co-operation in the attainment of that objective and would therefore be interested in a seat on the Committee.

70. It will perhaps be of interest to the Committee to hear something about my country's past activities in the field of space research and technology and about its plans for the future.

71. For more than 10 years now the Federal Republic of Germany has been working on problems of the research into and use of space. Since 1962 it has spent some 3,000 million Deutschmarks on these activities, including its contributions to the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and the European Launcher Development Organization (ELDO), of which it was a co-founder in 1964.

72. At the beginning, my country concentrated on co-operating in the scientific exploration of space. National projects include the satellites Azur and Aeros, which were launched with the help of the United States, and the satellite Dial, which was launched into orbit by a French rocket.

73. Together with the United States, my country has embarked upon the most ambitious purely scientific space research project undertaken so far, the solar sounding rockets Helios A and Helios B. They are to be launched in 1974 and 1976 respectively and will provide new information on the fundamental solar processes as well as solar-terrestrial relationships.

74. Together with the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, we are investigating the possibilities for developing the satellite Exo which is to explore the X-ray spectra of cosmic sources of radiation.

75. My country has also co-operated in connexion with four of the seven scientific satellites which ESRO has launched so far, and it is participating in all of ESRO's current projects in this field. And, finally, the Federal Republic of Germany has carried out an extensive sounding rocket programme in co-operation with several other countries, including non-European States. From 1963 to 1972 it launched 212 sounding rockets and participated in 76 launchings of such rockets within the framework of ESRO.

76. The Federal Republic of Germany has not developed launchers of its own, but it has co-operated in the development programmes of ELDO and is now participating in the work on the European launcher project Ariane which is being developed within the framework of the planned European Space Agency (ESA).

77. For a number of years now the scientific programme of space research has been increasingly giving way to application projects the aim of which is to utilize the new possibilities offered by space research and technology for solving the problems confronting mankind. Over the past few years the problems of environmental protection, of town and country planning, of energy supply, and of provision of ever-growing communication networks have become increasingly urgent and public awareness of them has grown. We have seen that a number of the problems with which we are so urgently faced can be solved better and more economically by drawing on the resources of space than by using terrestrial methods. To those problems my country will give particular attention in the future.

78. The conclusion in 1967 of an agreement with France concerning the joint development of the communication satellite *Symphonie*, the first and still experimental version of which is to be launched in 1975, constituted a first step along that road. That type of satellite permits the transmission of telephone, telegraph, broadcast and television signals. We are at present working on the blueprints for a direct television broadcasting satellite. As regards remote sensing of the earth by satellites, my country sees major possibilities for the detection, development and protection of natural resources, for the protection of the environment, and similar projects. The Federal Republic is accordingly working on the development of new sensing and evaluation methods.

79. Of the European application satellite programme in which my country is participating the following projects deserve particular mention: the communication satellite *Telecom*, which is to improve the communications systems inside Europe; the *Aerosat* project, which ESRO-ESA plan to carry out jointly with the United States and Canada in order to improve air traffic control, the weather satellite *Meteosat*, which will be used within the framework of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme; and the maritime communication satellite *MAROTS*, which is to improve the efficiency of maritime traffic through better communications systems.

80. Above all, however, mention must be made of the *Spacelab* project, in which Europe is participating in the United States post-Apollo programme. With this space laboratory, a part of the reusable space shuttle, Europe will

participate in the manned space flights of the 1980s, which hold prospects for the exploration and use of outer space that we cannot yet fully assess.

81. In this connexion I am thinking particularly of the manifold possibilities of manufacturing in space.

82. Altogether the Federal Republic of Germany will spend more than 150 million Deutschmarks in 1974 on its share in the various projects of ESRO, which will be succeeded by the European Space Agency. Its share in these projects ranges from 20 to 55 per cent. The total expenditure will be considerably increased in the years to come.

83. That survey of my country's space activities up to the present as well as of its plans for the future shows that we are tackling the tasks of exploring space and of using its possibilities almost exclusively in co-operation with other countries. We do so not only because single-handed action would surpass our own possibilities, considering the dimensions of the task before us, but also because the solutions which are taking shape make co-operation expedient.

84. International telecommunication is unthinkable without co-operation: satellites for air and sea traffic can serve their purpose only within the framework of co-operation at a regional level at least. The possibilities opened up by weather satellites presuppose their incorporation into a world-wide system of weather observation stations. Data provided by satellites for remote sensing of the earth usually have to be combined with those collected on the earth itself in order to permit their evaluation. The use of direct broadcast satellites, too, requires co-operation.

85. That brings me to item 31 on our agenda. My delegation welcomes the substantial amount of work already done in the Committee to prepare the elaboration of "principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting" [see resolution 2916 (XXVII)]. It approves the proposal that this item should be again referred to the Committee, which should give it high priority in its considerations. The Committee, together with its Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites and its Legal Sub-Committee, provides an excellent opportunity for judging all political and legal problems involved, in the light of the technical possibilities and the state of development at any given time. It seems to us that our knowledge of the technological possibilities is not yet comprehensive enough to enable us to make political and legal decisions now. We should not come to any decisions which might impair potential technological developments.

86. Our future discussions will centre mainly on two principles which have found general recognition by the community of nations. These are the basic rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual, on the one hand, and the sovereignty of States, on the other.

87. My delegation believes that the system of direct television broadcasting via satellites can be of great benefit. It facilitates the free flow of information, thereby promoting friendly relations and co-operation among peoples through better knowledge of each other and mutual understanding. The basic rights and fundamental freedoms

of the individual, including his rights freely to inform himself, should therefore be given special emphasis. Particularly within the framework of the United Nations no rules should be established which are inconsistent with these rights and freedoms. Nor should we create any artificial barriers in space, which is by nature universal. If we succeed in reaching agreement on the basis of the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter, we shall have gone a long way towards making the benefits of this new technology available to all peoples.

88. In the years to come we will have to define the modalities for the co-operation we are seeking in outer space. The use of the resources of space is still in its infancy and has largely not yet left the experimental stage. The relevant possibilities must be further explored and tried out in practice. The findings have to be made known to potential users so that they can define their requirements. Only then can the appropriate machinery for co-operation be established.

89. My country particularly appreciates the work done by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international organizations. It especially wishes to pay tribute to the Expert on Space Applications and to the Outer Space Affairs Division for their co-operation in collecting and transmitting information on the possibilities of using the resources of space.

90. The Federal Republic of Germany supports the recommendations contained in the report of the Outer Space Committee and endorses draft resolution A/C.1/L.669 submitted to us concerning international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

91. My Government is confident that the Committee, under the enlightened guidance of its Chairman, will continue its valuable work in the future. Much remains to be done before we will have achieved our aim, which is to ensure that the resources of space are effectively used for improving conditions of life on our planet. As a new Member of the United Nations, my Government intends to join in that task.

92. Mr. BOOTHE (Jamaica): Considerable advances in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space have occurred in the 12 months since this Committee last discussed the items at present under consideration. My delegation would therefore like to avail itself of this opportunity at the outset of this intervention to express to the United States of America and the Soviet Union our admiration of and our congratulations on the new and important advances they have achieved.

93. The existence for the past 15 years of a United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has attested to the acceptance in principle of the significance and potential relevance of outer space for all States and not for just a few. The foregoing notwithstanding, it remains an indisputable fact that the exploration and use of outer space have been and will for some time to come continue to be the preserve of only a few States.

94. What has changed, however, in the years since the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, when the Outer Space Committee was first established as an *ad hoc* committee, has been the focus of the Committee's interests, and indeed that has occurred as a result of the increasing relevance of outer space affairs to all States. Thus the Committee has moved from essentially legal considerations to an increasing concern—in theory, at least—with space applications, be it in the field of remote sensing or in direct broadcasting from satellites.

95. We do not for a moment deny the continuing importance of the legal aspects, whether they pertain to international instruments or to the legal aspects of either a remote sensing or a direct-broadcasting satellite system, but we do recognize with great satisfaction the increasing concern with space applications and in particular those applicable to the development and planning needs of the developing countries.

96. It is because of that change in the focus of the Outer Space Committee's work in the years since its establishment and the considerable expansion of the United Nations membership in the 12 years since the Committee was last expanded that we join in the call for the expansion of its membership. It is, further, our belief that any such expansion should take into account the principles of equitable geographical representation and the need for adequate representation of the developing countries and their interests on the Committee.

97. We are of the firm conviction that the expansion of the membership of the Committee is a matter falling within the purview of the General Assembly, and we do not believe it would be appropriate for that Committee to study and make recommendations concerning its own expansion. My delegation has therefore joined with a number of other delegations in preparing an amendment to operative paragraph 28 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.669, and we would here express the hope that that amendment will find wide support when it is introduced.

98. We would now turn to a consideration of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In so doing, my delegation wishes first to express its appreciation to the Committee's Chairman, Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, for his conduct of the Committee's affairs and the report he introduced to us at the 1978th meeting.

99. We have noted with concern, which I know we share with other delegations, that the Legal Sub-Committee has again failed to meet our expectations despite the establishment of an informal working group of the whole to review the draft treaty relating to the moon and the draft convention on registration. We acknowledge that progress was made on both those instruments. However, we cannot but regret that the instruments were not ready for consideration at the current session of the General Assembly. In addition to the two instruments, the Legal Sub-Committee has a number of other vitally important matters awaiting its consideration, and it is indeed unfortunate that the consideration of those matters has again been deferred.

100. The report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee [*A/AC.105/116 and Corr.1*] is of particular interest to developing countries such as mine, and while there appears to be considerable room for improvement and expansion of the activities covered by this report we are nevertheless greatly encouraged by the work that is already successfully in hand. We believe that the expansion of the Committee's membership and the growing awareness of and concern with space applications that should result will give added impetus to the areas of involvement covered by the report of the Sub-Committee.

101. My delegation endorses those recommendations of the Sub-Committee relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites, which are set forth in paragraph 32 of the Committee's report. Remote sensing of the earth by satellite, and, for that matter, aerial photo surveys, are of the greatest significance for both the developed and the developing countries and will play an increasingly important role in development planning.

102. We have also taken note of the role of the specialized agencies and other international organizations in the applications of space technology as outlined in paragraphs 37 to 43, and we would here express the hope that that role will be increased and extended wherever necessary and whenever feasible. The international co-operative projects in the areas of education and training in practical applications of space technology are also assuming an increasingly important role, and it is to be hoped that the availability of those projects will match the demand which is likely to accompany any increased interest of the developing countries in space applications. We would here express the hope that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research will follow up its initial efforts as reflected in the *UNITAR News* issue on "The United Nations in Outer Space" by preparing training seminars in co-operation with the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and national Governments.

103. It is because of my delegation's belief in the importance of the United Nations programme on space applications and our commitment to the idea that both the scope and content of that programme should be expanded that we must join with other delegations in expressing our serious concern at the failure to provide in full the amount of the appropriations proposed by the Expert on Space Applications for the 1974 work programme. Our concern in this matter is heightened when we view it against, on the one hand, the savings of some \$6 million in the United Nations budget reported by the Secretary-General and, on the other, the increasing—and, I might add, new—interest of the developing countries in the space applications programme.

104. We now turn to the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites [*A/AC.105/117*]. We have studied the report and the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group as contained in paragraphs 77 to 79, and we note that the Working Group has considered it necessary to give its primary attention to relevant legal and political problems.

105. While my delegation attaches the utmost importance to the elaboration of guiding principles on the use of direct

broadcast satellites, and, eventually, of an international convention on the same subject, we would have been happier if equal attention were being given at the same time to what is, in our view, an equally important aspect concerning the application and integration of direct broadcast satellite systems into development planning. As was indicated earlier in this intervention, my delegation recognizes that the legal aspects are a fundamental part of all deliberations on this question. Bearing this in mind, we nevertheless maintain that any working group on direct broadcast satellites should not, because of the priority accorded legal and political problems, review only the substantive material on the technical, economic and other issues related to direct satellite broadcasting.

106. May I here remind the Committee that under the terms of General Assembly resolution 2453 B (XXIII) the Working Group was established to study and report on the technical feasibility of communication by direct broadcast satellites and the current and foreseeable developments in this field, including comparative user costs and other economic considerations, as well as the implications of such developments in the social, cultural, legal and other areas.

107. My delegation would wish at this juncture to take note of the important work relating to the use of direct broadcast satellites which is being undertaken by the specialized agencies. We would note in particular the role of the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It is our hope that their important role will be continued and expanded. The publications prepared by UNESCO have, in our view, been particularly useful in disseminating information, as has the earlier-mentioned issue of *UNITAR News* on "The United Nations in Outer Space".

108. The Working paper on direct broadcast satellites prepared by the delegations of Canada and Sweden and contained in document *A/AC.105/WG.3/L.4* is, in our view, a most useful document, and we would here express our appreciation to those two delegations for their initiative in preparing this working paper. My Government believes that the draft principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellite which are set forth in that working paper, the draft convention prepared by the Soviet Union, and the Declaration on guiding principles prepared by UNESCO, together provide material on the basis of which an international instrument on the use of direct satellite broadcasting may be negotiated. Such an instrument, as a first step, should ideally provide for co-operation and co-ordination, rather than regulation. We believe that the state of the art is at present too new, and the developments to come in the years immediately ahead are too substantial, to permit international regulation at this time. The time for regulation will of course come, and there can certainly be no harm in addressing ourselves to that ultimate goal even now, while concentrating on an instrument aimed at co-operation and co-ordination.

109. In concluding, my delegation wishes to pay particular tribute to Mr. Murthy, the United Nations Expert on Space Applications, and to Mr. Abdel-Ghani, the head of the Outer Space Affairs Division, and to their staff, for the

selfless manner in which they have discharged, and continue to discharge, their heavy workload.

110. Mr. TIKHONOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translation from Russian*): Since the launching by the Soviet Union of the first artificial earth satellite, somewhat more than 16 years have passed. But science and technology have, in this historically brief period of time, taken a giant stride forward and the results of space research have been put to ever more varied uses. The instruments of space communication are already playing an important role in man's life. The application of satellites to purposes of navigation is being expanded, and for a number of years now an important role in the gathering of meteorological information, in improving the accuracy of weather forecasting and the forecasting of natural disasters has been played by the system of meteorological satellites. The use of sputniks, or satellites, for the study of the earth is opening up broad prospects for agriculture and forestry, oceanography, geology, hydrology and deep-sea fishing. Such satellites can become an effective means of carrying on the fight on a world-wide scale against pollution of the environment, through controlling the discharge of waste products into the water and the atmosphere, not to mention the importance of space research for general progress in science and technology and for the enlightenment of contemporary man.

111. In the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the use of outer space for peaceful purposes is receiving a great deal of attention. The Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which was held in 1971, laid stress on the task of "conducting scientific work in outer space for purposes of the development of long-distance telephone and telegraph communication, television, weather-forecasting, the study of natural resources, geographical research, and the performance of other national economic activities by means of satellites and automatic and piloted devices, together with the continuation of fundamental scientific research concerning the moon and the planets within the solar system." That task is being successfully performed.

112. Research in outer space is of a primarily global character and, to a considerable extent, furthers the development of international scientific and technical co-operation. Great importance is attached to that in the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. It was therefore only natural that in the peace programme put forward at the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union should have expressed its readiness "to take part, together with other interested States, in solving such problems as space research and the conquest of space".

113. In this area there is close co-operation between the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, particularly in following up the agreements on the creation of the system of international space communication known as INTER-SPUTNIK. There is growing co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States. One manifestation of this is the preparation for a joint flight of the spaceships Soyuz and Apollo in 1975. Agreement of the Soviet Union with France and with India are being put into effect with

regard to co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space.

114. The United Nations, through its Committee dealing with this matter, is making its contribution to co-operation among States in the peaceful uses of outer space.

115. The Committee has to its credit a number of important international legal agreements. Particularly noteworthy is the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. This Treaty, which came into force in 1967 and to which more than a hundred States have acceded, erected an obstacle to the proliferation of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction in outer space and other celestial bodies. Other important agreements are the one on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space, and a number of other legal documents.

116. At the same time the Committee is faced with serious tasks which still remain to be accomplished.

117. As far back as May 1971, the Soviet Union submitted a draft treaty relating to the Moon,² which, as is well known, provided for the prohibition of the threat or use of force on the Moon, the prohibition of the use of the moon in order to commit any such act or to engage in any such threat in relation to the earth or other celestial bodies, and the prohibition of the emplacement on the moon of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as any other actions connected with the use of the moon for military purposes.

118. Such a Treaty is most timely since the Moon is the only natural satellite of the Earth and plays an important part in the conquest of space and should, of course, be used exclusively in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind. The treaty relating to the Moon should constitute an important development of the 1967 Treaty on the peaceful uses of outer space, and in fact no one has objected to that.

119. Resolution 2915 (XXVII), which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, acknowledged that a task of high priority for the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was the preparation of articles of the draft treaty relating to the moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. A year has gone by, but for a number of reasons the Committee has been unable to conclude its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR expresses the hope that the Committee will do everything in its power to conclude its work on this important document in the near future.

120. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is faced with one more important task—that of drafting principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting on the basis of

² Ibid., *Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 92, document A/8391, annex.

which an international agreement or agreements can be concluded. Precisely such instructions were issued by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session in resolution 2916 (XXVII). A year has gone by but the Committee has been unable to make any perceptible progress in drafting such principles.

121. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR considers that this very important and topical question should be tackled, but the question is: For what purposes will this remarkable scientific and technological achievement be used? Will it be in the interests of peace, progress, the development of mutual understanding and the strengthening of mutual relations among all States and peoples, or will it be a weapon in the hands of reactionary forces for intervention in the internal affairs of other States and the exacerbation of relations among them, and for propaganda in favour of violence and immorality and misinformation?

122. The overwhelming majority of States favour the first alternative, as is demonstrated by the fact that resolution 2916 (XXVII) was adopted by 102 votes in favour with only one against.

123. We have a sound basis on which to conclude an appropriate international agreement on this important question, namely, the draft international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, which was introduced by the Soviet Union in August 1972³ and which the Byelorussian SSR whole-heartedly supports.

124. In this regard we should like to dwell on one more aspect of this problem.

125. In the present circumstances of détente in international life, certain Western circles are attempting to intervene in the internal affairs of the socialist States on the hypocritical pretext of promoting freedom of information, the free exchange of ideas, the defence of human rights and so forth. In these attempts they are counting on being able to use the latest advances and achievements of science and technology, including direct television broadcasting by satellites.

126. We should like to stress that the socialist countries are also in favour of an exchange of ideas and information and cultural co-operation. Convinced as we are of the correctness of our cause and of our Marxist-Leninist ideology, we have no doubt that an exchange of spiritual values and information will indeed serve to disseminate the truth about socialism and its achievements.

127. But such an exchange should be carried out with respect for the sovereignty, laws and customs of every country, and should serve the mutual spiritual enrichment of the peoples of the world, the growth of trust among them and the strengthening of peace and good neighbourliness. Are those principles really served by the propaganda contained in many media of mass information in Western countries which are propagating racial and national division

and hatred, violence and pornography? Certainly not. The socialist countries resolutely reject the exchange of such ideas.

128. On the basis of those considerations the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR is in favour of the immediate conclusion of an international agreement on the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, so that this achievement of science and technology can serve the purpose of strengthening peace, friendship and mutual understanding among peoples. We would express the hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will accelerate its work on the preparation of such an agreement and present an appropriate draft to the General Assembly.

129. Mr. BÁNYÁSZ (Hungary): The twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly is drawing to an end and will soon finish our work in this Committee too. In the past quarter of a year we have exchanged views on many important subjects; a judgement on the usefulness of our discussions and our results and failures must be left to the future. If we have succeeded in contributing a little to easing the tensions existing in the world and to strengthening the practice of peaceful coexistence of nations, our work will not have been in vain.

130. The fact that now, in the last days of the current session, we are paying attention to new possibilities for the peaceful uses of outer space, that is, to the future, is perhaps not a matter of mere chance. We should rather regard it as a significant symbol.

131. The grandiose achievements of science and technology are making this earth increasingly international. Artificial satellites are orbiting by the hundreds in outer space. At the same time, however, serious political and economic conflicts still create tensions here on our earth. To prevent these conflicts from leading to a thermonuclear catastrophe is possible in only one way. Active peaceful coexistence must be made to grow stronger, as has been proposed by the socialist countries from the beginning. Every people and every human being must, from childhood, be taught the practice of peaceful coexistence. The role and even the power of the media of mass communication in our days are immeasurably great; and the one having the most powerful effect among them is television. The television screen has enabled hundreds of millions of people to be eye-witnesses to contemporary history. However, all this is better known to scientists.

132. Let me quote in evidence a passage from the book *What Next?*, published here in New York in 1971, by the Nobel Prize winner and biochemist of Hungarian origin, Professor Albert Szent-Gyorgyi:

“One of the most important factors in modern life is communications. The speed of communications has increased in today's world ten-millionfold. I can watch, sitting at home in slippers, not only how a man walks on the moon, I can even hear him talk. What does this mean? It means that the world of today is qualitatively different from the world of just a few years ago. The globe has, by virtue of communications, become fused into one single unit; the result is that we now live in a

³ *Ibid.*, Twenty-seventh Session, Annexes, agenda items 28, 29 and 37, document A/8771.

world in which a virus born in Hong Kong can within days ravage New York, in which the killing in Viet-Nam makes my street unsafe, and the bombing in Viet-Nam makes bombs go off at home. In earlier periods our planet was cut up into small, isolated national units which could quarrel amongst themselves without any dire consequences for the rest of the world. This, of course, is no longer the case; in today's world any local quarrel can eventually lead to the extinction of us all."

133. The United Nations has often been criticized for taking up certain questions belatedly and starting discussions when the problem at issue has become aggravated. That is also why special thanks should be given to the delegation of the Soviet Union for its proposal submitted in due time—at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly—for a thorough consideration of the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

134. The enormous possibilities which the coupling of space technology with our every-day life may bring to humanity cannot be appraised as yet. We may come into possession of the most powerful means ever of the world-wide dissemination of the results of education, culture and the sciences. It goes without saying that such a means should be handled prudently and by keeping up with our space age. It is of world-wide importance that direct broadcasting should serve the purpose of promoting peace and co-operation among the peoples, of lessening international tensions, and nothing but this purpose.

135. The Hungarian People's Republic is in favour of peaceful co-operation and peaceful competition between countries with different social systems. We encourage by every means the exchange of cultural values which enrich and beautify life for the peoples. We support freedom of information. Every year about two thousand foreign journalists, radio and television reporters from all over the world visit our country. Our book publishers bring out almost immediately all valuable works published either in friendly socialist countries or in the Western Hemisphere. Hungarian Television maintains intensive exchanges with most television companies of the world. In Hungary, which has a population of 10 million, 2 million television sets are in use, meaning that television broadcasting reaches practically every family in the country.

136. What we, on the basis of our own bitter experience, have to object to, on the other hand, is the abuse of freedom of information, instigation against peoples and States. In the Hungarian People's Republic laws make it a crime to instigate war, to incite to racial and religious hatred. We do not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations, but likewise we do not allow anyone, misusing the means of modern technology, to incite against our socialist society and political system, the friendship of socialist countries and the co-operation of peoples.

137. It follows from this that, in our opinion also, it is necessary to undertake as soon as possible the elaboration of legal norms to put an end to the utilization of direct broadcasting for the purposes of instigation. We have to create safeguards as well as an international atmosphere which should make it impossible, in any circumstances whatever, to violate the sovereign rights of States.

138. It is our duty also to take care that, the blessings of modern space technology are shared in common by all nations. In particular, we should give attention to the specific problems of the developing countries.

139. The Hungarian delegation is of the view that the right course of action to take is for our Committee to urge the elaboration of the basic legal aspects of the draft convention. The future begins today.

140. Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria): During the year under review we have witnessed several new spectacular achievements in the area of space science and technology. Without making a full *tour d'horizon*, I should like to mention in this respect such outstanding developments as the launching of Lunokhod 2, the remotely controlled Soviet vehicle which explored the LeMonnier Crater and made detailed surveys of lunar surface, and Luna 20, which brought lunar soil samples back to earth. Of significant importance also was the successful Soviet manned space mission of the Soyuz in September last. In April 1973 a scientific research satellite, Intercosmos Copernicus 500, was put into orbit jointly by the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus. We should also like to mention the current Skylab experiment, the United States manned space station which is studying the effects of long duration space flights on man, and the flight of Pioneer 10, which has already sent valuable scientific information on Jupiter.

141. Another important event which we have special reason to note because of our own involvement in it is the coming into force of the agreement on the establishment of an international system and organization of space communication (INTERSPUTNIK).

142. As is known, during the period under review very important new political developments have taken place in the world which are favourably influencing many areas of international relations including outer space matters. In fact this is one of the first areas to be affected by the change-over from the cold war to détente and increased international co-operation. Nothing illustrates the new situation better than the continuing preparations for a joint Soviet-American space mission in 1975 during which a Soyuz and an Apollo spaceship will be linked up and a Soviet cosmonaut will move into an American spacecraft and an American astronaut will move into a Soviet spacecraft.

143. It has been recognized that the positive trends in the current world situation open up opportunities for even wider co-operation among States in this as in many other areas. The United Nations and its various organs dealing with outer space matters can and should play an important role in this respect. The report of the Outer Space Committee which is before us reveals some substantial achievements during the current year.

144. The Legal Sub-Committee and the Committee itself strove hard to complete their work on the elaboration of a draft treaty relating to the Moon, on which the main problems outstanding are, as is known, the scope of the treaty, the question of the timing of the information to be

furnished on missions, and the legal régime over the natural resources of the Moon.

145. During the Legal Sub-Committee's session in March and April last year strenuous efforts were made to overcome the existing difficulties. My delegation made its own contribution by presenting on 27 March a paper containing a full draft treaty based on the package approach. As a result of lengthy negotiations, agreement on and *ad referendum* basis was reached on all points, including the difficult problem of declaring the natural resources of the Moon a common heritage of mankind. Yet in the end a new deadlock developed over the possible use of the natural resources of the moon prior to the establishment of an international régime.

146. The Committee itself during its session in June and July of this year tried, and unfortunately failed, to solve the problems at issue. Regardless of this failure, it should be recognized that, thanks to the efforts of the various interested delegations, serious progress has been achieved during the past year in the elaboration of the final draft treaty and the existing gaps have been substantially narrowed down. We believe that a new determined effort at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee can and should result in the successful elimination of all obstacles to the completion of this important task. That is why we agree with the Committee's proposal as contained in paragraph 28 of its report that the Legal Sub-Committee should at its next session accord the highest priority to the consideration of this item.

147. My delegation also agrees with the Committee's proposal that the same highest priority should be given to the completion of the second important instrument on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee—the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. In this case too during the year under review the Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee were very near to final elaboration of the draft convention; the only remaining issue outstanding is the one on markings. We believe that it would not be over-optimistic to expect that a new effort during 1974 would help to solve this last difficulty and would allow the Committee to submit to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly a finalized text of the draft convention on registration.

148. Let me turn now to a problem which grows in importance with each passing year.

149. By its resolution 2916 (XXVII) of last year, the General Assembly directed the Committee to undertake the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements. The Soviet Union, which took the laudable initiative of bringing this very important problem to the attention of the General Assembly, provided also a text of a

draft convention which can usefully serve as a basis for the elaboration of the principles in question.

150. During the year under review the Committee and the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites made some small progress in the consideration of this issue. It must be admitted, however, that we are still far from even starting the concrete elaboration of the principles as directed by resolution 2916 (XXVII).

151. We believe that this should be a matter of serious concern. During the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly there was a very lively debate in this Committee over the importance of the issue of direct television broadcasting. It is not our intention to engage now in the same kind of debate and indeed that is not necessary because the argument was solved last year entirely in favour of those delegations, including mine, which contended that it was time for the United Nations to take advance measures to ensure that direct television broadcasting would be used only to promote peace, détente and better understanding among nations. Procrastination in this regard can bring about, in only a few years, a situation in which one of the most promising scientific and technological achievements of the human genius may turn into an instrument of discord, international friction and conflict.

152. The issues related to direct television broadcasting are manifold and complex. We agree that the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites can usefully consider some of the aspects of the problem. But the only organ competent to deal with the formulation of the principles to guide States in the use of direct television broadcasting is the Legal Sub-Committee. That is why the General Assembly should, as a follow-up to its resolution 2916 (XXVII), refer the consideration and elaboration of these principles to the Legal Sub-Committee. In view of the great importance of this question it should be accorded the highest priority during the next session of the Sub-Committee.

153. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies have to consider several other items. We attach great importance to the question of the legal and other implications of earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites. Here again the USSR has offered some useful suggestions aimed at the international regulation of the activities in this area. The model draft principles governing the use of space technology by States for the study of earth resources [A/AC.105/C.2/L.88] can serve as a sound basis for further work in this respect.

154. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): As regards agenda item 39, I wish to inform the Committee that the delegations of Cameroon, Cuba and Indonesia have joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.670 concerning the Declaration of International Security.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.