



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/PV.391
22 June 1993

ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 391st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 17 June 1993, at 12.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. MUNTEANU (Romania)
(Vice-Chairman)

- Other matters (continued)
- Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Munteanu (Romania), Vice-Chairman, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

Mr. GONZALEZ BUSTOS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish):

Item 8 on the agenda, entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status", is, in the view of my delegation, one of the basic objectives of the Committee. In fact, it is not only a question of identifying the spin-off benefits of space technology, but also, and more importantly, one of designing the necessary mechanisms to allow access by all countries, and principally the developing countries, to those benefits on favourable terms. In that connection, my delegation stresses the need to strengthen international cooperation in the field of space.

Space technology has reached a high level of sophistication because of the economic, social and cultural spin-off of benefits of using it efficiently. Many countries that are today space Powers earmarked enormous human, technical and financial resources over many years in order to reach the level of space development they have today. The developing countries, lacking those resources, have not been able to solve basic problems of communication, and their development in the space field has been quite insignificant. The technological gap facing these countries has been widening day by day, and that is why greater cooperation within the exceptional framework provided by the United Nations is becoming indispensable.

The advances in space technology are capable of being applied effectively to the benefit of countries' economic and social development. They can be applied in very many different ways and extend to a variety of areas, such as

(Mr. Gonzalez Bustos, Mexico)

industry or medicine. Satellite remote sensing, for example, provides valuable assistance in the areas of agriculture, natural-disaster prevention and natural-resource monitoring, to name but a few. The countries that have this technology must also have the political will to promote access to it for the developing countries.

My delegation feels that it is appropriate for the specialized agencies in the United Nations system that participate actively in the various areas of space activities and space technology applications to examine the possibility of setting aside part of their regular budgets to promote the use of the spin-off benefits of space technology in the developing countries.

Under item 9, "Other matters", I should like to refer briefly to the following aspects.

The substantive session of the Commission on Sustainable Development that is now taking place here at Headquarters is sure to develop a series of guidelines on which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) will have to base its own activities. There are many areas in which the Committee can make valuable contributions, as it has at its disposal the technical and legal elements to enable it to do so.

The implementation of Agenda 21 presupposes collaboration between all United Nations subsidiary bodies; COPUOS cannot and should not remain uninvolved, as the objective being pursued requires all countries alike to act. Indeed, the health of their people and of future generations depends on it. My delegation urges COPUOS to commit itself to the struggle to preserve the environment, in space and on Earth, and to reverse environmental degradation as a part of promoting the economic and social development of peoples.

(Mr. Gonzalez Bustos, Mexico)

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates the need for the Programme on Space Applications to be given greater economic resources. To achieve this, we propose that the Office for Outer Space Affairs prepare a document showing the priority programmes that have not been started or finished for lack of finance and including the amounts that would have been required; on that basis, the Committee should request the Secretary-General to include those amounts in preparing the next budget exercise. We urge all other countries to continue supporting the Programme on Space Applications in order to implement the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space): The first part of the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/AC.105/L.202) was distributed yesterday morning. It includes the "Introduction" and the sections on "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes" and "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session". A number of additional paragraphs, to be included in the first part of the report, are contained in document A/AC.105/L.202/Add.2, now being circulated; these relate to the Santiago Declaration, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and space debris.

The second part of the draft report (A/AC.105/L.202/Add.1) is now being circulated; it covers "Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session".

The third part of the draft report (A/AC.105/L.202/Add.3) is also being circulated now; it covers "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status" and "Future work".

The final part of the draft report, to be circulated by tomorrow morning, will cover "Other matters" and will be based on the informal consultations that have been taking place since yesterday on questions relating to membership, venue and other matters.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.