

## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

*Unedited transcript*

### 460th Meeting

Friday, 16 July 1999, 10 a.m.  
Vienna

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*Chairman:* Mr. Rao (India)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** I now declare open the 460th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I would like to begin by requesting delegates' fullest possible cooperation in ensuring the timely progress of the Committee's work this morning. As you may be aware, there are still a number of agenda items to be discussed.

First, we should conclude our consideration of agenda item 5, "Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III". Following that, we will need to consider and conclude agenda item 6, "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee", agenda item 7, "Report of the Legal Subcommittee", and agenda item 8, "Other matters". The Secretariat has requested that we try to conclude our consideration of agenda items 5 and 7, and as much as possible of agenda item 8, at this morning's session, so that the Secretariat may prepare the corresponding parts of the report for this afternoon's session on agenda item 9, "Report of the Committee to the General Assembly".

I would ask for your fullest cooperation in order to complete our consideration of agenda items 5 to 8.

Before we continue our consideration of agenda item 5, I would like to inform members that I have received a note from the delegation of Namibia in which it requests permission to attend the current session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as an observer. I therefore suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite this delegation to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate.

This is of course without prejudice to further requests of this nature, and does not involve any decision by the Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to delegations. If there are no objections, we shall proceed accordingly. *It is so decided.*

We will now conclude our consideration of agenda item 5.

**Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III (concl.)**

**The CHAIRMAN:** We will resume our final consideration of the draft report of the Conference

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In its resolution 50/27 of 16 February 1996, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that, beginning with its thirty-ninth session, the Committee would be provided with unedited transcripts in lieu of verbatim records. This record contains the texts of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages as transcribed from taped recordings. The transcripts have not been edited or revised.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week of the date of publication, to the Chief, Translation and Editorial Service, room D0708, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.

(document A/CONF.184/3 and Corr.1). In view of time constraints, I would request that we try to conclude this agenda item as quickly as possible, especially since the text of the draft report and the Vienna Declaration will be considered extensively by Member States during UNISPACE III itself. So there will be a further opportunity to make interventions during the Conference.

At the end of yesterday afternoon's meeting, the Committee had approved the Executive Summary, the bulk of the body of the report, and were in the process of considering the text of the Vienna Declaration. However, there were still a few outstanding paragraphs that required informal consultations and/or the development of specific proposed texts.

I would suggest that we return to approve those paragraphs of the draft report that remain before moving on to the other sections of the Vienna Declaration. I see no objection, and we will thus proceed accordingly.

There are two paragraphs which we have yet to approve: paragraphs 179 and 183*bis*. With regard to paragraph 179, the distinguished representative of France was to propose an acceptable formulation. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Brazil.

**Mr. H. DA ROCHA VIANNA (Brazil):** Following consultations between my delegation and the delegations of France and Germany, I am pleased to inform the Committee that we were able to find a mutually satisfactory solution to the proposed language for paragraph 179. The text reads as follows:

"A number of questions also need to be addressed before a new type of satellite navigation system can be deployed on a global basis. It is most desirable that all interested countries cooperate with a view to benefit from the development and implementation of such a system."

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Could you kindly let me have a copy of the proposed text so that I may read it again to the Committee. Thank you. The first sentence of this paragraph had already been approved, with the modifications made, and reads as follows:

"A number of questions also need to be addressed before a new type of satellite navigation system can be deployed on a global basis."

The second sentence, which was the one to be drafted during the consultations, reads as follows:

"It is most desirable that all interested countries cooperate with a view to benefit from the

development and implementation of such a system."

Is this acceptable? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of France.

**Mr. L. AUBLIN (France)** (*interpretation from French*): My delegation had understood yesterday that we were going to review the whole of paragraph 179, which is why, together with the delegations of Brazil and Germany, we looked for a text to replace the first sentence. Is this not what was agreed? The text you have before you also has a different wording for the first sentence, to take account of the second sentence.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I will read the whole of paragraph 179:

"A number of questions also need to be addressed before a new type of satellite navigation system can be deployed on a global basis. It is most desirable that all interested countries cooperate with a view to benefit from the development and implementation of such a system."

Is this acceptable? I see no objections; it is so agreed.

We also have paragraph 183*bis*, the text of which is to be provided by the distinguished representative of Greece, following consultations. May I ask the distinguished representative of Greece if a proposed text is ready?

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece)** [*speaks in English*]: We do not have a text, because the delegations of Greece and the United States reached an agreement that my concern regarding this specific activity is covered by the general provision proposed by the delegation of the Russian Federation. Being happy with this well-balance solution, my delegation no longer insists on the insertion of a specific reference to the peaceful and non-warfare uses of these specific systems.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your excellent cooperation. Therefore paragraph 183 consists of one sentence, as follows:

"The countries operating the GSNS should commit themselves to not switching off the navigational systems in use or intentionally reducing the quality of those signals."

This is what was approved, and if there are no objections, we will now proceed. *It is so agreed.*

We have now completed our work on the main text of the draft report. We will now continue with our consideration of the Vienna Declaration. We had finished sections I and II; we were in the process of discussing section III. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. A. YAKOVENKO** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): You may recall that yesterday my delegation reserved its right to give a new name for the Russian Space Agency, in view of the renaming operation that has taken place. In English it will be the Russian Airspace Agency.

My delegation would like to ask the Secretariat to incorporate this amendment throughout the text.

**The CHAIRMAN**: Thank you. This will be done. We will continue with section III, "Advancing scientific knowledge of space and protecting the space environment". We had completed paragraphs (a) and (b), and the delegation of the United Kingdom had proposed a paragraph (c). I believe that this proposal has been circulated; it contains three new paragraphs, (c), (d) and (e). Following consultations, it has been proposed that these paragraphs be added to section III.

These paragraphs read as follows:

"(c) To improve the international coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects, such activity would be directed at harmonizing worldwide efforts directed at identification, follow-up observations and orbit predictions, while at the same time consideration should be given to developing a common strategy that would include future activities related to near-Earth objects;

(d) To protect the near and outer space environments through further research on the design, safety measures and procedures associated with the use of nuclear power sources in space;

(e) To ensure that all users of space consider the possible consequences of their activities, whether ongoing or planned, before further irreversible actions take place affecting future utilization of near Earth or outer space, areas such as astronomy, Earth observation and remote sensing, as well as global positioning and navigation systems are already areas for concern due to electromagnetic spectrum pollution."

Are there any comments on these three paragraphs? I see no objections. It is so agreed.

We next come to section IV, "Enhancing education and training opportunities and ensuring public awareness of the importance of space activities". There are four paragraphs: are there any comments on these paragraphs? I see none; section IV is therefore agreed.

We will now turn to section V, "Strengthening and repositioning of space activities in the United Nations system", which contains five paragraphs. Are there any comments? I see none; it is therefore agreed.

Section VI is entitled "Promoting international cooperation", and contains two paragraphs. Are there any comments? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE** (Germany): Am I correct in saying we are looking at chapter VI? My delegation would like to comment on one point over which we are not entirely happy, paragraph (a). In the text, we are asked to welcome the recommendations made by the various regional conferences. Unfortunately, Germany did not have an opportunity to attend any of the conferences because there was no regional conference for Western Europe.

For this reason, it is quite difficult for my delegation to welcome results of the regional conferences, even if we admit that most of the recommendations which are read through are quite reasonable. As it is difficult to welcome the recommendations, it is equally difficult for us to welcome the implementation of these recommendations, as stipulated in the last sentence of paragraph (a). Therefore we would like to propose some small amendments, as follows. The word "welcome" should be replaced by "take note"; at the end of the paragraph, it should read "to consider in the appropriate fora the recommendations of the regional conferences."

**The CHAIRMAN**: Thank you. Are there any objections to this change? I see none. Therefore with these changes, section VI is agreed.

This concludes our consideration of the complete draft report, including the Vienna Declaration. I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in helping to advance the work of the Committee.

We have thus concluded our consideration of the draft report of the Conference and the draft Vienna Declaration.

I would now like to move on to consider the agreements of the Advisory Committee on other organizational matters for the Conference. Delegations have before them the reports of the Advisory Committee

and its Working Group of the Whole on work carried out at the 1999 session (document A/AC.105/719 and Annex II). In this document, the agreements which are before the Committee for consideration are set out in paragraphs 12 to 22 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

In particular, the Committee should consider agreements regarding the distribution of officers of the General Committee and the establishment of a drafting group; allocation of agenda items and the schedule of work of the plenary, Committee I and Committee II; arrangements for the activities of the Technical Forum; additional international organizations to be invited to the Conference; participation of national organizations, and the statements to be made by space-related international organizations not having observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee; voluntary contributions; and future work.

We will consider these one by one, and will start by considering the agreement of the Advisory Committee on the distribution of officers of the General Committee, which is on page 17, under B, "Distribution of officers of the General Committee and establishment of a drafting group" (paragraphs 12 to 14).

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. D. GONCHAR** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): My delegation would like to draw the Committee's attention to document A/CONF.184/PC/6, which contains the text of the *note verbale* from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation in Vienna addressed to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The point of this *note verbale* is that, unfortunately, what is contained in paragraph 13 of section I – that is, the candidature of the Russian Federation as Vice-Chairman for Committee I, Mr. Yuri Kopev. Unfortunately he will be unable to attend the Conference. My delegation therefore proposes the candidature of Mr. Alexander Yakovenko, the deputy permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the international organizations in Vienna. My delegation would request that this change be noted, as the decision is taken by the Committee with regard to the membership of the bureau for UNISPACE III.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I would like to draw delegates' attention to document A/CONF.184/PC/6, which contains the text of the *note verbale* from the Russian Federation concerning the office of Vice-Chairman of Committee I, in which the

Russian Federation has proposed to substitute Mr. Yuri Koptiv by Mr. Alexander Yakovenko. Are there any objections? I see none. *It is so decided.*

As concerns paragraph 14, we will now consider the agreement of the Advisory Committee with regard to the Drafting Group, bearing in mind the additional information provided by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in his statement to the Committee.

The Director indicated that the Secretariat had received information from the Asian Group, identifying Mazlan Othman as the representative from Malaysia, and information from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries identifying Hector Raúl Pelaez (Argentina) and Alejandra Bonilla (Colombia) as their designated representatives.

Is there agreement? I see no objections. With these additions, may I take it that the Committee wishes to endorse the agreement of the Advisory Committee? *It is so decided.*

We will now turn to the agreement of the Advisory Committee regarding the allocation of agenda items and schedule of work of the plenary, Committee I and Committee II. This is contained under section 2, where the allocation is proposed and agreed upon, in paragraphs 15 and 16. I hear no objections, *it is so decided.*

We now come to the arrangements for the activities of the Technical Forum (paragraph 17). If there are no objections, may I take it that the Committee agrees to the agreement of the Advisory Committee in this regard? I see no objections; *it is so decided.*

We come next to the agreement of the Advisory Committee regarding additional international organizations to be invited to the Conference (paragraph 18). If I hear no objections, may I take it that the Committee agrees to the agreement of the Advisory Committee in this regard. I see no objections; *it is so decided.*

We now turn to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee regarding participation of national organizations and statements to be made by space-related international organizations without observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the Committee agrees to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in this regard. I see no objections; *it is so decided.*



We come next to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee regarding future work (paragraph 22). If I hear no objections, may I take it that the Committee agrees to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in this regard. I see no objections; *it is so decided.*

May I suggest that the Committee might wish to express its appreciation to those governments, organizations and industries that have provided voluntary contributions to support the preparations for UNISPACE III (paragraphs 20 and 21). I see no objections; *it is so decided.*

We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 5, and we will now begin our consideration of agenda item 6.

#### **Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-sixth session**

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before moving to our first speaker on this item, I would like to call on the Expert on Space Applications, Dr. Abiodun, who will brief delegates on the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

**Mr. A. ABIODUN** (Expert on Space Applications, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to address the distinguished delegates of this Committee on the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications during the Committee's consideration of agenda items 5 and 6 of its current session.

An unqualified "yes" is the answer to the question: can space technology assist in meeting a number of critical needs within the global community, and particularly in our respective countries? A review of the abstracts of papers submitted for UNISPACE III by Member States and regional commissions, as well as by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, provides overwhelming evidence on the roles and contributions of space science and technology in our daily lives.

Our need to understand the universe has brought about major collaboration among many space entities around the world. Satellite technology has enhanced our understanding of the Earth's environment, including the depletion of the ozone layer. The need for a better understanding of the Earth's system in its entirety has led to the development of Earth observation satellites, including those dedicated to meteorological services. For many countries, satellite technology continues to provide the opportunity to monitor and obtain accurate and up-to-

date information on agricultural production, and the use of remote sensing to estimate the rate of deforestation in the Amazon region has become an operational exercise.

As a result of satellite technology today, universal access to data, voice and video communication are revolutionizing the way people live and interact, a process that will be accelerated in the next millennium. Furthermore, telecommunications services and related information exchange are no longer viewed as a utility; today they are being considered as an important resource that affects the development of countries, industries and societies. It is having a profound impact on how people live and work, and even on how governments are run.

In many of the industrialized countries, satellites and space-related methods are being used as tools for improving scientific knowledge, for increasing the effectiveness of the public sector services and for developing new businesses. Practically all countries that have an active space programme today agree that it is an essential provider of infrastructures for scientific, societal and economic purposes.

Satellite navigation has become a part of our everyday activity, particularly in the transportation industry, and will blossom in the years to come; it has equally become very effective in the study of the movement of tectonic plates in the earthquake-sensitive regions of the world. Many countries, including a few non-space-faring ones, are contributing to the development and growth of crystals in a microgravity environment.

The International Space Station will make space industrialization, within the microgravity environment of space, a reality in the new millennium. On the whole, space activities are moving from competition to cooperation and from government command to commercialization. Collaboration in space activities is providing national scientists and engineers with the possibility to participate in the most challenging activities which otherwise would not have been possible.

The aforementioned examples, and many more, on how space science and technology have contributed to the improvement of human conditions here on Earth, have been the driving force behind the efforts of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Programme was established in 1971, as a result of the recommendation of the First United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1968, and strengthened by General Assembly resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, consequent to the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. On the eve of UNISPACE III, I wish to take this opportunity to provide

you all with a brief summary of how the Programme, through its activities, has assisted the developing countries in particular since UNISPACE 82. This statement will also briefly address the organization of the regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III.

Annex I to the statement I am now making provides a one-page summary of all the activities that were conducted under the auspices of the Programme since UNISPACE 82. These have been amplified both in my annual statements and reports. The overall scope of the activities of the Programme and its impact are illustrated in a new booklet called "Space for development: The United Nations Programme on Space Applications", a copy of which all distinguished delegates should have received.

What has the impact of the Programme been? Through its core activities from 1982 to date, the Programme has enriched the knowledge base, in space science and technology, with a corresponding enhancement of institutional capacity, in many developing countries. Specifically, the Programme has grown from building awareness on the subject-matter to transmitting and inculcating knowledge through a variety of educational and training programmes, provision of technical advisory services and information, and building indigenous capability at the local level.

Specifically, the Programme has contributed to raising the consciousness of Member States on the practical value of satellite technology, not only in the monitoring and management of the environment, but also on the invaluable roles satellite technologies play in human understanding of the outer space environment, and the impact of that environment on life here on Earth.

The applications of satellite-acquired data for the monitoring and mitigation of natural disasters, in search and rescue operations, in information exchange and in monitoring the cultivation of narcotic drugs have also featured prominently in the work of the Programme. The latter also brought together those in the forefront of space exploration and utilization to interact with governmental establishments and private companies in the developing countries, in order to jointly explore opportunities and lay the industrial foundation that would enable the developing countries to benefit from the spin-offs of space exploration.

Because of the heightened knowledge of scientists in the developing countries, contributed in part by the Programme, and the subsequent increased interest and desire of these countries to participate in research and development activities in space science and technology, a number of them are now becoming space capable. In

support of such efforts, four years ago the Programme began to address the subject of small satellites and their various applications' potentials, a subject that is now of major interest to many countries.

Today, the opportunities for collaboration between governments, academic institutions and industries for participation in small satellite missions and projects, or in space experiments, particularly in the development, fabrication and launching of small satellites and their payloads, and in the joint study and analysis of the results obtained therefrom, are growing. For countries that have taken such a bold step, such efforts are yielding greater rewards, including the enhancement of the expertise of a wide range of local engineers and scientists who can subsequently be engaged in a variety of local industries for the benefit of the local economy. In the process, knowledge and skills are enriched, novel applications are made possible, and opportunities to carry out low-cost scientific and technological experiments in space, using available capable indigenous talents to satisfy local needs, often become a reality.

Mention of talents brings me to the issues of the centres. As you are all aware, one of the key elements of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations was the establishment of indigenous capability at the local level. Our translation of this element of the Programme's mandate into the establishment of regional centres for space science and technology education grew out of our recognition that a higher level of knowledge and expertise than currently exists in the developing countries is needed by educators, research and application scientists if they are to make a significant contribution to the solution of global, regional and national space applications-related problems (for example, the environment) and become active partners in the process.

In support of that view, the International Astronomical Union, in the abstract of its paper for UNISPACE III, noted the following: *The key need for any country to participate profitably in the space enterprise is simple: a resource of well-educated scientists and engineers, employed in the service of their country and with the tools to put their ingenuity and experience to good use.*

On this occasion, I am very grateful personally to the Chairman for his confidence and support of our initiative on the centres when you welcomed us to India in 1985 in your capacity as Chairman of ISRO, as we began to lay the foundation blocks for the centres. Today, I am pleased to report that the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific in India, inaugurated on 1 November 1995, and in accordance with the master curricula, has successfully

organized long-term programmes on three courses on remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS), and one course each on satellite communications, satellite meteorology and global climate, and basic space science. A new course on satellite communications started on 1 July 1999 and will conclude on 31 March 2000.

As of today, 146 scholars from 27 countries of the Asia-Pacific region have benefited from the activities of this Centre. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Government of India for its commitment to and generous financial support for the Centre. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership given to the Centre, its administration and its programmes by Dr. Kasturirangan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (and also Chairman of the Centre's Governing Board) and by Professor Deekshatulu, Director of the Centre.

I am also pleased to inform you all that the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology (in the French language, CRAFT-LE) was inaugurated on 24 October 1998 in Casablanca, Morocco. The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology (in the English language, ARCSSTE-EL) was inaugurated on 24 November 1998 in Lagos, Nigeria.

Both Centres have developed programmes that will be implemented before the end of this year. A workshop on the scientific orientation of the Centre is being organized in order to identify the needs of the African countries and to determine which fields of education should be the priority of this particular Centre for meeting these needs. Two long-term programmes on remote sensing and geographical information systems, and space telecommunication, are respectively scheduled for January and spring of 2000. A workshop for the news media was conducted at the Centre in Nigeria on 9 and 10 July this year to popularize its activities. A workshop on remote sensing and geographical information systems for professionals is also scheduled to begin at this Centre in the second week of September 1999. This will be followed by a meeting of the Centre's Governing Board, which will consider and approve the Centre's programme of activities for next year.

The inauguration of the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Brazil, is expected to take place later this year. The activities being undertaken by the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE) in preparation for this are reflected in paragraph 12 of my current report.

An evaluation mission on the centre to be established in Western Asia was completed last year, and the report of the mission has been forwarded to the

Governments of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. We are awaiting additional information that has been requested from them before finalizing the selection process of the host country for this centre.

On the basis of the report of the technical study mission conducted in late November/early December last year by the Programme, with the support of the Italian Government, to Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Turkey, these countries that constitute the network of space science and technology education and research institutions for Central-Eastern and South-Eastern European countries are developing the framework for the operation of the network.

Detailed information on these centres and on the other 1998-1999 efforts of the Programme in the provision and administration of long-term fellowships for in-depth education, the organization of training courses, workshops and conferences, the provision of technical advisory services, the acquisition and dissemination of information and the promotion of regional cooperation, are contained in documents A/AC.105/704, 706, 709 and 713.

On behalf of the United Nations, I wish to express our gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Austria, Chile, China, Jordan, Morocco, Romania, Spain and Sweden for hosting the activities of the Programme that we have organized and are planning to organize since I last reported to you in 1998. I also wish to convey the gratitude of the United Nations to the Government of Italy and the European Space Agency for providing essential support to the Programme within this period.

In the area of professional alliances and associations, through a series of basic space science workshops and corresponding follow-up activities, the Programme has contributed to the fulfilment of the dreams of many astronomers, particularly in the developing countries, through their on-going interaction with their counterparts in the rest of the world and the installation of small astronomical telescopes in a number of these countries, with the cooperation and support of the Government of Japan and the collaboration of host governments. As a result of the efforts in basic space science in the establishment of the Centres and in the development of the COPINE initiative, among others, the Programme has contributed to the building of a number of academic and professional alliances at the regional level among Member States.

At the professional level, the Programme also contributed to strengthening efforts of SELPER, an association of remote sensing specialists in Latin America, and initiated the efforts to regionalize the

COTOPAXI ground receiving station near Quito, Ecuador, for the benefit of Member States that are within the footprints of this particular station. The African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) and the Working Group on Space Sciences in Africa have been established at the initiative of the Programme. These two professional space science and technology-related bodies, established for the benefit of African scientists, have since gained international recognition and acceptance.

With its current international membership of 71 governmental and private telecommunication entities, the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council (APSCC) came into being under the auspices of the Programme in 1992, and with the cooperation of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

In the area of regional cooperation, at the dawn of UNISPACE III, it is very heartening to know that all the regions of the world have come to recognize and accept the importance of political support, national commitment and regional cooperation in each nation's drive to participate in the different phases of space science and technology. In this regard, it should be noted that the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas will take place in Latin America immediately after UNISPACE III. The second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Space Applications will be held in India in November 1999, also following UNISPACE III.

In this connection, the United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of the Programme in Pretoria, South Africa, in November 1996, called for an African leadership conference on space science and technology. This proposal was reiterated and unanimously endorsed by the delegates at the Africa-Middle East Regional Preparatory Conference for UNISPACE III, held in Rabat, Morocco, in October 1998. According to its proponents, such a leadership conference would provide the appropriate political guidance and commitment needed if Africa is to take appropriate steps, as well as benefit from the opportunities that will accrue from such a decision. Nigeria has offered to the host the proposed leadership conference on space science and technology after UNISPACE III.

Within the United Nations system, the Programme continues to cooperate, at different levels, with other departments and agencies of the United Nations to meet the needs of Member States. Specifically and most recently, first, the Programme developed and, with the Department of Social and Economic Affairs and the European Space Agency as partners, is implementing a

technical assistance programme in support of the activities of graduates of UN/ESA training courses on microwave remote sensing.

Second, the Programme contributed to the evolution and development of the AFRICOVER project, a world forest mapping project, beginning with Africa. It is being executed under the leadership of FAO, with main funding from the Italian Government. Third, the Programme is contributing technical expertise to the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to the development and subsequent operation of a world-wide Earth observation monitoring system of the cultivation of narcotic drugs.

Fourth, the Programme has provided technical assistance to UNIDO on the management of large marine ecosystems, with emphasis on the protection of human health and capacity-building for marine resource development and environmental protection of the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa. Fifth, it has worked with WHO to develop the health-care aspects of the COPINE project. And lastly, the Programme has provided, on a continuing basis, technical advisory services to IDNDR on the contribution of satellite technology to natural disaster monitoring, mitigation and relief.

Within the international community, particularly through its association with international professional organizations, I am happy to report that we continue to interact with them successfully and fruitfully, especially COSPAR, IAF, IAU, ISPRS and TPS. Through all of these associations, the Programme has offered many participants from the developing countries wide exposure to expertise and knowledge-sharing opportunities, including participation in projects that are of interest to them and their respective countries. The Programme also contributed, through the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), to the evolution of the International Global Observing System (IGOS), and continues to support its development.

However, the Programme has also had its own share of limitations. By expanding the mandate of the Programme in 1982, without a corresponding adequate allocation of human and financial resources to carry out ensuing activities, and by subsequently surrendering the implementation of these activities to the mercy of voluntary contributions, the General Assembly ultimately truncated and limited the achievements of the Programme.

The post-UNISPACE III focus of the Programme, as recommended by the Advisory Committee of UNISPACE III, and as recently approved by this

Committee, are contained in paragraph 342(d) of the draft report for UNISPACE III. I pray that appropriate and adequate resource allocations will be provided by the General Assembly to implement the new mandate of the Programme after UNISPACE III.

Similarly, given the varying capacities and capabilities of Member States, particularly the developing countries, a practical way of initiating and encouraging regional cooperation in space science and technology and related activities is an active engagement in an area that can bring immediate tangible results. Information technology provides a glaring example, and the COPINE initiative offers a good basis for such a cooperative effort.

The development of the COPINE concept has gone through many phases since 1995, when the idea of such a project was put forward by the Programme. Since then, COPINE has received significant support from many Western European countries, as can be attested to by the resolution unanimously passed by the COPINE Governing Board in Helsinki on 8 July 1997. At that meeting, the Board concluded, *inter alia*, the following.

The Board noted that a practical approach to providing access to information technology (IT) has been developed through COPINE which will permit African partner countries to build IT capabilities to support their development, based on their own assessment of needs on a financially sustainable and future compatible basis. It further recognizes the instrumental functions of the COPINE concept for securing institutional memory of development programmes.

The Board appreciates the unique potential of COPINE as a partnership programme between African and European countries, to turn developmental priorities into achievable targets, and complementarity of this to the existing initiatives. It concludes that the COPINE project is a viable concept of meeting urgent development needs and that it is a necessary vehicle to enable Africa to participate in the continuing globalization process.

In spite of the above glowing endorsement of the project, it has yet to receive the necessary financial backing that could translate it into an operational programme. COPINE is at present on hold, and its current status brings to mind the fate of a similar project - that is, the establishment of an International Institute for Space Science and Electronics (INISSE) and the construction of a Giant Equatorial Radio Telescope (GERT) in Africa, the outcome of a 1979 UNESCO/Commonwealth Foundation-sponsored workshop that was held at the Radio Astronomy Centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in India with participants from Asia and Africa.

In spite of an overwhelming international acclaim for INISSE and GERT, both remained paper projects until India, on its own, provided the financial backing for the construction and operation of a GERT equivalent in India. The contributions of GERT to India's achievements in science and technology cannot be overestimated, and should serve as an inspiration and a lesson worthy of emulation for the potential beneficiaries of COPINE.

Much of what the Programme has accomplished since UNISPACE 82 became possible, in part, because of the support of the global scientific community, as a result of the sponsorship by many countries that have hosted the activities of the Programme and due to the support of dedicated experts from around the world.

On this occasion, I would like to thank all here present and the countries you ably represent. I would also like to pay a special tribute to the European Space Agency and the people and the distinguished past and current emissaries here amongst us from ESA: Mr. [Jan Eriks?] and Mr. Giuseppe Gianpalmo, the former and current heads of the International Relations; and Mrs. Karen [Babens?] and Mr. Berquist of the same office. Our special thanks also go to the people and Governments of Austria and Sweden for their steadfast and longstanding support and contributions to the Programme. I also offer my heartfelt thanks to all my colleagues in the Office who have worked with me over the years in carrying out the mandate of the Programme, and in the process, in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of many developing countries.

I would be remiss in this statement if I did not also acknowledge the support of my colleagues within the United Nations system, particularly at DESA, FAO, WMO, WHO, UNESCO, UNEP, the regional economic commissions and UNDP. The Programme has benefited from your support, and your contributions in the future will be indispensable.

In preparation for UNISPACE III, and as recommended by COPUOS and mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, the Programme successfully completed the organization of four regional preparatory conferences in the 1998-1999 period. These preparatory conferences were held in Kuala Lumpur (18-22 May 1998), Concepción (12-16 October 1998), Rabat (26-30 October 1998) and Bucharest (25-29 January 1999), respectively, for the benefit of Member States in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The recommendations of these activities are contained in the annex of the draft report of UNISPACE III, which is before you.



The preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III offered the participating countries unique opportunities to articulate their needs and concerns. Our many years of experience and interaction with Member States, through the implementation of the activities of the Programme, also gave us unique opportunities and the privilege to observe these issues firsthand. In this context, I would like to briefly highlight what I believe to be a number of critical elements that require corresponding corrective measures by many countries, particularly those developing countries that are still to be active in the space enterprise.

These elements and necessary corrective measures are as follows. There is a need to enhance the knowledge and understanding of decision makers, at both the national and regional levels, on the roles of space science and technology in the development process. There is inadequate articulation of and commitment to national policies on science and technology, including space science and technology, in the development process.

There is inadequate commitment to national capacity-building, particularly in research and development programmes which are prerequisites to the effective contribution of each nation to the solution of national, regional and global problems. There is also under-prioritizing and under-funding of infrastructure and skilled manpower development and related facilities, all of which impede the implementation of appropriate space-related activities.

Today we have untapped applications potentials of satellite technology at the national and regional levels, particularly for communication to rural areas for education and health-care delivery, for disaster monitoring, mitigation and relief, for sustained environmental monitoring and natural resources management, and for search and rescue operations.

Governments, universities and research institutions, and private industries in all countries should be co-partners in cost-effective space systems projects, including small satellites as well as in translating spin-off benefits of space exploration into viable commercial products. There is also a need to: (i) recognize that maps and geospatial data are part of a nation's infrastructure, as much as a network of transportation, health care and education, telecommunications and water supply systems are; (ii) gain access to essential information, including affordable, space-acquired data that are applicable to these and other aspects of human endeavour; and (iii) to use such information to develop necessary data bases that can communicate with one another;

Finally, there is also the need to recognize the immense opportunities for regional cooperation, in spite of different national policies and priorities, through the implementation of joint programmes and projects that can be mutually beneficial to all.

In conclusion, at the global level, the several national and intergovernmental science and technology related efforts undertaken to date are beginning to bear fruit. As modern business begins to unlock and understand the importance of pioneering efforts in space science and related technologies, the potential applications of these technologies are beginning to be realized. From communications, broadcasting and security, to Earth observation and navigation, the social and economic benefits are starting to be reaped by investor companies and nations.

It is heartening to note that in recognition of these developments, between UNISPACE 82 and UNISPACE III, a number of developing countries have become space-faring nations. Others are now space-capable, and yet others with necessary financial resources have acquired their own communication satellites from the open space market. These achievements notwithstanding, the majority of the developing countries are still on the side lines and are inactive.

The benefits of a country's active participation in space science and technology are clear and are well known. All nations of the world must be ready to face the challenge and make the necessary commitment to participate in and contribute to the development efforts in this new frontier. It is only through such a meaningful contribution that we can all proudly and equally partake of its benefits. For me personally, it has been a very challenging and unique opportunity to serve you all from UNISPACE 82 to UNISPACE III. I am grateful to you all for your support and cooperation.

UNISPACE III has arrived, and it is the obligation of us all to make sure it is a fruitful and memorable conference. Thank you for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I would like to thank Dr. Abiodun for his excellent and very informative statement on the activities of the Programme on Space Applications. I am sure everyone would agree that Dr. Abiodun and his colleagues have done a great job with this process.

We will now continue with our consideration of agenda item 6. I have a number of speakers on my list, the first of whom is the distinguished representative of Germany, to whom I give the floor.



**Mr. O. GARBE (Germany):** My delegation would like to express its sincere thanks to Dr. Abiodun for the excellent work he has done in his career. We appreciate it greatly and we wish him all the best for the coming years.

Turning to agenda item 6, my delegation would like to refer to an initiative taken by Germany in this respect. In our general statement under agenda item 4, we already drew the Committee's attention to the draft Vienna Declaration, and especially to Chapter V, paragraph (e), where it reads:

"to reconsider the agenda structure and working methods of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees to better reflect issues of global concern ..."

My delegation believes that these commitments should be undertaken as soon as possible. The co-sponsors of the initiative support this view, and details of the initiative are contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.227 of 25 February 1999. The aim is to revitalize the work of the Subcommittee. In the future, we would like to see a Subcommittee which is no longer dealing with merely routine work but which takes up and discusses new development of worldwide space activities. We believe a clearer distinction should be made between information items and work plans.

This proposal for a new structure seems to us to have found widespread support within this Committee. Since agreeing on this proposal, we took note in the general exchange of views of statements by several delegations in support of our proposal, and especially of the comments made by the distinguished representative of India, who suggested the inclusion of an item on remote sensing in our proposal. My delegation believes that this is a very constructive amendment and we would like to agree with this suggestion.

Our proposal would then have to change slightly. You have before you the document I just mentioned, and slight changes would need to be made in it to the chapeau, especially the last sentence. We suggest that COPUOS should adopt this proposal and this should be reflected in the language used.

With regard to the proposal by the delegation of India, we would like to add a new point 3 which would read as follows:

"Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries, and monitoring of the Earth's environment."

I will repeat this at dictation speed (repeats sentence).

This additional proposal is acceptable to my delegation, but we did not have an opportunity to consult with our co-sponsors on it. However, we feel it to be a good and reasonable proposal and we are looking forward to the reactions of the co-sponsors, and of course of all other delegations. The proposal by the delegation of India should also be included in the draft provisional agenda suggested for the year 2001, under item 3, with the same wording.

We would like to submit this initiative of Germany and its co-sponsors to the Committee for its consideration and eventual adoption.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for the initiative you have taken, along with other delegations. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

**Mr. HUANG Huikang (China)** (*interpretation from Chinese*): On behalf of my delegation, please allow me to express, through the Chair, our congratulations and thanks to Professor Rex, the Chairman of this Subcommittee. Under his outstanding leadership, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has achieved positive results at its last session.

In particular, the Subcommittee has successfully completed the arduous task entrusted to it by the General Assembly, in preparing for UNISPACE III, the work of finalizing the technical report on space debris. My delegation notes with appreciation the results achieved.

We have some comments on the report of the Subcommittee. As a result of concrete efforts over the past couple of years, UNISPACE III is about to take place. This is yet another important international conference on outer space issues organized by the United Nations as a follow-up to UNISPACE 82. All countries are naturally attaching great importance to it. China will be sending a high-level delegation, headed by the Administrator of the China National Space Administration, and will also submit its national report to the Conference. It will send experts to participate in the activities of the Technical Forum, the Space Generation Forum, and the space exhibition to be held in parallel with the Conference.

The preparations for the Conference are now close to completion. My delegation hopes that UNISPACE III will make a positive contribution to the promotion of space science and technology for peaceful purposes and the strengthening of cooperation in the area of outer space among the governments of all countries and space industries, in order to promote economic development

and social progress of all countries, particularly the developing countries. My delegation, along with all delegations, will make every effort to ensure that UNISPACE III will be a complete success.

Since 1993, when in resolution 48/49 the General Assembly approved the request of COPUOS to place the issue of space debris on the agenda of the Subcommittee as a priority item, many years of efforts on the part of delegations and space experts from various countries have led to substantial progress in the consideration of this item. An important achievement in this respect is the technical report on space debris submitted to this session of the Committee for adoption.

This report covers the three major aspects of measurement, modelling and mitigation of space debris. It contains a wealth of information presented on an adequate scientific basis, and reflects the current level of understanding on space debris on the part of the international space science and technology community. This report has thus laid a scientific and technical foundation for future research into the solution of this complex issue. The recommendations contained in the report have a positive role and guidance value in mitigating space debris.

However, it should be noted that the adoption of the technical report on space debris only represents one stage of the achievement. The problem of space debris is far from being resolved. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should continue to consider space debris as a priority item. Countries and the relevant international organizations should also continue their research on the measurement, modelling and mitigation measures, as well as the exchange of information on space debris, and engage in effective international cooperation in this area.

In order to further promote research on space debris, my delegation proposes that an international data base on space debris be established as soon as possible through which to collect and utilize as widely as possible the space debris measured by various countries. We will play an active role in the establishment of such a data base.

My delegation is satisfied with the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. China has actively supported and participated in the Programme. Every year since UNISPACE 82 took place, China has provided, through COPUOS and ESCAP, a certain number of fellowships to the developing countries for the purpose of space applications training. To date, this totals more than 60 persons. This year, China will continue to provide the

Programme with two fellowships with a duration of one year.

From 14 to 17 September 1999, in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency, the Government of China is organizing a seminar in Beijing on space applications for the promotion of sustainable agriculture. All countries are invited to take part in this seminar.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to Dr. Jasentuliyana, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Abiodun and all colleagues in the Office.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America):** Let me first express my delegation's deep appreciation for the work carried out by Dr. Abiodun and for his successful year in promoting space applications for developing countries.

My delegation is taking the floor briefly to address the working paper that is now before all delegations which we have submitted (document A/AC.105/L.219), on space debris and its future consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We would like to make a specific proposal for consideration by Member States regarding next year's work on orbital debris by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

My delegation is aware that time is short, but the basis for our recommendation is contained in the working paper. With your permission I will read this out at dictation speed. Our proposal, to be included in the report of the Committee, concerning the work on orbital debris in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2000 is as follows:

"The Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, should review international compliance with the ITU standards and recommended IADC policy concerning the disposal of satellites in geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful life. The area of focus could be expanded to include the disposal of upper stages used to achieve geosynchronous orbits and debris issues associated with geosynchronous transfer orbits."

Thus there are two sentences concerning next year's work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We can hand this text to the Secretariat.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

**Mr. L. PEREK** (Czech Republic): My delegation wishes to support the proposal made by the distinguished representative of the United States. We consider this topic to be a suitable continuation of the scientific and technical discussion on the problem of space debris. We appreciate that some data on the satellites will be necessary for this purpose, as we recently went through the exercise of preparing a list of active satellites in the geostationary orbit for the regional preparatory conference for UNISPACE III, which might be contained in one of the background information documents.

My delegation believes that the data which would be compiled should have an official basis. Therefore we propose that the data be prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. We do realize that this creates additional work for the Office, and we would like to state our willingness to cooperate and assist in whatever way we can.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Brazil.

**Mr. H. DA ROCHA VIANNA** (Brazil): My delegation welcomes the report of the thirty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as contained in document A/AC.105/719. We would like to take this opportunity to commend the Secretariat's work in preparing such a comprehensive document.

My delegation would like to refer to paragraph 56(d) of the report, which mentioned the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation workshop on space technology for the benefit of developing countries, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in the 2000. Brazil is honoured to host this workshop, which is being organized under the auspices of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Brazilian aerospace authorities, and especially the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) continue to attach great importance to this event.

On the subject of space debris, my delegation welcomes the technical report contained in document A/AC.105/707 adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. My country is in favour of continuing the discussions on this subject, with a view to finding common ground and measures to reduce the generation of space debris. We believe that any eventual measures to be agreed upon should be preceded by careful examination of all legal and economic implications.

Brazil also welcomes the reference in paragraph 71 of the report to the establishment of a centre for space science and technology education in Latin America and the Caribbean. As you know, Brazil and Mexico are the two host countries of the regional centre. The agreement establishing the centre was signed by the Government of Brazil and subsequently ratified by the National Congress in 1997. My country is fully committed to this initiative and, through INPE, is already carrying out a series of activities with a view to the implementation of the centre. Every effort is being undertaken to ensure that the next step, which is the full affiliation of the centre to the United Nations, is completed as soon as possible.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico.

**Mr. B. FIGUEROA** (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): First, my delegation would like to refer to the question of space debris. We believe it is appropriate to work on the understanding of the concept of the term "space debris" as well as the definition of the necessary legal provisions to avoid collisions or explosions in orbit.

Another important topic is timely detection and registration of residual parts that are in orbit, and it is thus necessary to promote an exchange of information as well as the creation of joint detection and training mechanisms in areas such as micro waste or re-entry into the atmosphere of hazardous waste.

My delegation would also like to refer to the regional centre for space science and technology education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRETELAC). Further to the comments just made by the distinguished representative of Brazil, my delegation also believes that CRETELAC is an important question on our agenda as a contribution to the endeavours to disseminate applications for space science and technology. As the Committee is aware, following the mission to various Latin American countries in 1992, a recommendation was made to create two CRETELAC centres, one in Brazil and the other in Mexico.

In August 1998, the Government of Mexico issued the agreement between Mexico and Brazil for the establishment of CRETELAC. Recently, Mexico has appointed its CRETELAC representative in Brazil, and a visit was made on 5 July to the Brazil campus. The aim of this visit was to establish direct contacts with CRETELAC and the officials in the office, as well as to learn about the activities taking place on the campus, including training courses and seminars. These activities are further evidence of the interest attached by Mexico to

the formal constitution of the centre and the definition of its workplan.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor under this agenda item? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of France.

**Mr. L. AUBLIN (France)** (*interpretation from French*): My delegation would like to join those delegations that have expressed their thanks and congratulations to Dr. Abiodun for the interesting presentation he has made. We are happy to be an active participant, both directly and indirectly, in the Programme on Space Applications and will be very happy to continue our cooperation with the Programme in the future.

As concerns space debris, consultations are at present taking place to develop a proposal to be presented at our meeting, and which will be sponsored by various countries. A final document should be ready by the beginning of this afternoon and my delegation will be speaking about it on behalf of those countries that are associated with it.

The proposal made by the distinguished representative of the United States seems very interesting to my delegation and certainly merits the Committee's attention. However, it should be inscribed against a broader backdrop. My delegation believes that the method that consists of determining each year the work for the following year runs the risk of losing sight of the essential goal, which is to expedite the implementation of realistic measures that are acceptable to all, in order to limit the production of space debris.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of India.

**Mr. G. NAIR (India):** My delegation would like to place on record its appreciation to Dr. Abiodun for the excellent report he made and the excellent work carried out in the area of space applications.

We consider that the issue of space debris needs further attention. In previous deliberations, it has come to light that this is an evolving field of knowledge; we thus need to understand the issues concerned in greater depth. In this context, the IADC has carried out some commendable work and brought out certain suggestions and recommendations. We also agree that this needs to be taken up as an item on the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's agenda during its thirty-seventh session.

However, the details and contents of these discussions need to be more focused.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Do any other delegations wish to take the floor? I see none. I think I am expressing the sentiments of all delegations here present in saying that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Professor Rex, have done an excellent job. We have made great progress in our appreciation of the problem of space debris. The fact that we are now talking of the selection of an appropriate graveyard and consignment of satellites at the end of their life, particularly in the geostationary orbit, is an important element that has been stressed by most delegations.

I would like to thank the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for their excellent work, and also to thank Dr. Abiodun for his report.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

**Mr. K. SALAZAR (Venezuela)** (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation asked for the floor in order to express its thanks to Dr. Abiodun. Over many years he has devoted untiring efforts to the Programme on Space Applications. I have had the pleasure of meeting him at the very beginning of my diplomatic career and I would like to stress the importance of his excellent report, which should remain engraved in our memories throughout the work of UNISPACE III.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I understand that there are two proposals which need to be included here. Are the distinguished representatives of Germany and France ready to present these proposals, or should we consider them at a later stage? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE (Germany):** At this stage, my delegation is unsure about the procedure. If I followed the discussion correctly, there are three proposals on the table: one by the delegation of the United States concerning space debris; another by the delegation of France, which is incomplete at this point, and he would like to take it up this afternoon. And then there is the German initiative, together with other co-sponsors, on the structure of the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Of these three proposals, it seems to my delegation that two are ready for decisions, whereas the third could be taken up this afternoon. I would therefore ask the Chair what procedure is foreseen here.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. We will look at all three proposals this afternoon, and at this point we will move on. We will keep agenda item 6 open as far as these proposals are concerned.

In fact, I have been informed by the Secretariat that in order to help them to prepare translations etc., the two proposals which are ready may be taken up immediately. The third will be taken up this afternoon. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Indonesia.

**Mr. H. DJOJODIHARDJO** (Indonesia): My delegation would like to join others in expressing its appreciation to Dr. Abiodun for the excellent work he has done. Many members of our delegation have had the privilege of working in close cooperation with Dr. Abiodun for more than two decades in various activities in United Nations sponsored space applications. We really are very grateful for the efforts he has made. We wish him every success in his future work.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. May we now consider the first proposal. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE** (Germany): This proposal has already been presented to the Committee, and I believe all delegations have before them document A/AC.105/C.1/L.227. In connection with the written text, one amendment needs to be included under point 3. The following points would then change numbers: former 3 would become 4; former 4 would become 5, etc.

The addition which was proposed by the delegation of India reads as follows:

"Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries, and monitoring of the Earth's environment."

This would be the amendment to the proposal. Then, in the chapeau, the last half-sentence would need to be adapted to the language used in the report; this could I am sure best be done by the Secretariat as I am not an expert. With these two changes, the text remains as presented.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Are there any objections to this text? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

**Mr. P. PALACIOS** (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation would like one small

clarification. Are you asking for agreement on the addition or on the full proposal?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE** (Germany): I apologise for not making it completely clear as to what we submitted for consideration by the Committee. My delegation is submitting the proposal as contained in the written document, with the amendment proposed by the delegation of India and an editorial change in the chapeau.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

**Mr. V. KOPAL** (Czech Republic): My delegation has a point of order. We are sorry to advise you and, through the Chair, the distinguished representative of Germany that document A/AC.105/C.1/L.227 has not yet been made available, and we would appreciate having it distributed so that we can see what needs to be discussed.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I think that under these circumstances, this matter should be taken up first thing this afternoon, and we should ensure that all the necessary documents are available for the three proposals.

**Mr. O. GARBE** (Germany): This is a document that was published on 25 February 1999, and therefore the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic would not find it in his pigeon-hole. We are willing to provide copies of it but we would be grateful if the Secretariat may be able to provide some extra copies as it is some months ago and not all delegations seem to have the text.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. It is better if we take this proposal up this afternoon, which will allow enough time for delegations that have not yet done so to have an opportunity to do so. We can then make meaningful progress. We will leave all three proposals in abeyance at present and will examine them first thing this afternoon.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. S. CAMACHO** (Secretary): To assist in the consideration of this issue, copies of the document in question are being prepared. As the distinguished representative of Germany has just said, this document has already been distributed. As delegates are aware, documents are distributed only once: it is a new regulations due to economy measures being taken by the

United Nations. However, copies are being made and will be ready shortly.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. We will now take up our consideration of agenda item 7.

**Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-eighth session**

**The CHAIRMAN:** The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Colombia.

**Mr. H. CHARRY SAMPER** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): First of all, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this report. We have several comments on the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-eighth session (document A/AC.105/721), as well as on the future work of the Subcommittee.

At the last session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group on agenda item 4 was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Amigo (Argentina). Various actions were agreed to continue with the question in the Working Group and the Subcommittee, with the aim of continuing to seek a consensus on this question. This is detailed in paragraph 6 of annex I of the report of the chairman of the Working Group, referring to the continuation of the examination of the working document submitted by Colombia (document A/AC.105/C.2/L.200 and Corr.1).

It was also agreed that the Secretariat, in cooperation with ITU, would prepare an update of document A/AC.105/C.2/L.205, "An analysis of the compatibility of the approach contained in the working paper entitled 'Some considerations concerning the utilization of the geostationary satellite orbit with the existing regulatory procedures of the ITU relating to the use of the geostationary orbit'". My delegation would like to stress the need for this update.

Second, in paragraph 74 there are statements made by several delegations, including my own, on the working paper submitted by the delegation of Germany (document A/AC.105/C.1/L.227), with which my delegation does not agree. We would like to ask that the positions of both Colombia and Ecuador, as stated in the plenary of the Subcommittee, are reflected at the end of annex 4 of this report, noting that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/45, the Legal Sub-committee will continue its examination of questions related to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the use of the geostationary orbit, taking into account the concerns of all countries, especially developing countries.

Third, regarding the future work of the Subcommittee, my delegation reiterates its position: we cannot support classifications such as those proposed in the working document submitted by the delegation of Germany. We disagree with questions being removed from the Subcommittee's agenda without consensus being reached.

The consensus method should be used for withdrawal of a topic from the agenda, or for inclusion of a new item. My delegation does not accept questions or debates for which extension of the examination calls for consensus, as appears in annex 4(II) of the proposal by the delegation of Germany. We have an open mind concerning consideration of the entire agenda of the Subcommittee, including its categories, should this be necessary. However, we do not accept changes to the consensus method, whether direct or indirect. We would request that this statement be included in the relevant report of the Committee.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

**Mr. HUANG Huikang** (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): My delegation expresses its appreciation for the report of the Legal Subcommittee, and would like to thank the former Chairman, Dr. Mikulka, for his outstanding performance. We also extend our appreciation to the present Chairman of the Subcommittee and the Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole.

One of the main tasks of UNISPACE III is to promote international cooperation and to develop international space law. My delegation believes that the Legal Subcommittee can play a unique role in this respect. Therefore we endorse that the Chairman of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the Legal Subcommittee itself, should actively participate in UNISPACE III and make appropriate contributions to its success.

International space law is inseparable from the development of space science and technology. The development of modern science and technology have turned dreams of the exploration and utilization of outer space into reality. However, human activities in space have also given rise to a series of new international legal issues which in turn have resulted in corresponding new legal principles, rules and regulations. This is how space law is born.

During the past three decades, the Legal Subcommittee has drawn up five treaties and five sets of legal principles relating to outer space. These are the



main source of international space law. It can be said that the Legal Subcommittee has played a leading and catalytic role in the formulation and development of international space law. This has been a remarkable characteristic in space law; however, in recent years, for various reasons, the development of space law has somehow lagged behind the rapid development of space science and technology. It is therefore necessary to revitalize the work of the Legal Subcommittee.

My delegation has noted with appreciation that some countries are making efforts to this effect. My delegation welcomes all efforts that will help improve the working methods of the Legal Subcommittee, enhance its vitality and working efficiency. We believe it is necessary and beneficial to reasonably classify the agenda items with a guarantee of consultations on an equal footing. However, there must be a generally acceptable standard for the classification and grouping of the agenda items and, more important, the existing items on the Subcommittee's agenda, particularly the issue concerning the definition and delimitation of outer space and the geostationary orbit, should be properly dealt with. These items should not be put on the shelf simply because no substantive results have been achieved after several years of consideration.

The twenty-first century will be the information age, when the importance of space science and technology and their applications will become more prominent. Thus space law must also be more developed. The Legal Subcommittee not only should but also can play a greater role in the next century. UNISPACE III will provide an excellent opportunity for us. My delegation is willing to join other delegations in a mutual spirit of cooperation to seize this opportunity to make continuing efforts to overcome the difficulties and solve the problems facing us in order to make new and increased accomplishments.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Argentina.

**Mr. H. PELAEZ (Argentina)** (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation would like to give its views on the configuration of the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee for its future work. We agree with all that has been said by the distinguished representative of Ecuador, on behalf of GRULAC, on this issue during the general debate.

As concerns the question of the review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, we believe that it is advisable to take note of progress made in consideration of scientific and technical aspects of this question which

could help later in an analysis of the matter from the legal point of view. Furthermore, we are in favour of the continuation of the examination of the different proposals on the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

With regard to new question for the Subcommittee's agenda, my delegation would recall that Argentina proposed a workplan on the commercial aspects of space activities which aroused the interest of several delegations at the Subcommittee's last meeting.

In conclusion, my delegation understands the motivation of the delegation of Germany and those countries that supported their proposal on the future work of the Subcommittee in seeking ways to give new impetus to the work carried out. However, we believe that there should be a more thorough examination of this proposal within the Subcommittee.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

**Mr. P. PALACIOS (Ecuador)** (*interpretation from Spanish*): First, my delegation would like to join other delegations in congratulating Dr. Abiodun on the excellent report he gave and the work he has done for many years now in the field of space applications.

With regard to the proposal made by the distinguished representative of Germany, my delegation supports the statement made by the distinguished representative of Colombia. When dealing with questions on international law at the international level, many interests and opposing views are involved. Merely because a particular question has been examined for years is not a reason to eliminate it from the agenda. One example is the Law of the Sea, and how many years it took to produce a treaty to regulate the matter.

My delegation therefore does not agree with the proposal made by the delegation of Germany.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Brazil.

**Mr. H. DA ROCHA VIANNA (Brazil)**: During the thirty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee, during the discussions on its future work, some interesting ideas and proposals were presented with a view to reshaping its agenda.

In principle, Brazil is in favour of all initiatives that address the need to strengthen the Subcommittee's activities. We commend the efforts made by the delegation of Germany in articulating and submitting, on

behalf of a group of States, a proposal for a revised agenda. However, that proposal – including the subsequent amendment of it by the delegation of Italy – is still unsatisfactory as regards strengthening the work of the Legal Subcommittee.

We have some concerns as to the items to be placed under category 2 of that proposal, whose discussion would be extended only if a consensus were reached. My delegation believes that while this rule could apply to new items introduced on the Subcommittee's agenda on an exploratory basis, different treatment should be given to those items that have been considered by the Subcommittee for a long time, such as the geostationary orbit and the delimitation of outer space. In this connection, an early withdrawal of such items before a final conclusion is reached should be avoided.

My delegation would also like to refer to the proposal made by Argentina in the Legal Subcommittee to include a new item on the agenda related to the commercial aspects of space activities. We are in favour of this item being introduced to the agenda on the understanding that international space law should provide for adequate response to any legal questions that may arise from commercial activities in outer space.

My delegation also believes that similar emphasis should also be placed on other items for discussion in the Subcommittee, which should concentrate on the legal aspects of various subjects, such as for example, intellectual property rights. We have taken note of the Subcommittee's report, as contained in document A/AC.105/721 and thanks the Secretariat for its work in preparing this report.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

**Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic):** My delegation believes that the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-eighth session adequately and properly reflects the work carried out at this year's session of the Subcommittee. This is why, as Chairman of the Subcommittee, I did not find it necessary to make an introduction to this report.

However, I would like to say a few words about the character of the work of the Legal Subcommittee. As you are all aware, and as has already been emphasized in connection with the work of other bodies of COPUOS, the work of the Legal Subcommittee was relatively brief and concentrated mainly on preparations for UNISPACE III. Therefore, the Legal Subcommittee had before it the draft report of the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for UNISPACE III on the work done in

the Subcommittee over the past years, and on prospects for future endeavours in the legal field.

This is, of course, the Chairman's report; however, it was still distributed to all delegations for their eventual comments, and all comments have been taken into account and implemented in the final text of this report, which will be presented to UNISPACE III, contained in document A/CONF.184/4. The Legal Subcommittee also considered in some detail the respective part of the draft report for UNISPACE III dealing with problems of international space law. Comments and views expressed by delegations have also been taken into account in editing this particular part of the draft report.

As concerns the other issues under discussion in the Subcommittee, I would like to highlight that the item concerning the review of the five United Nations space treaties was discussed in greater detail in the working group established for this purpose, under the able guidance of Mr. Cassapoglou (Greece). Among the other questions that were examined, I would also like to highlight that the Subcommittee continued its informal consultations on new items for the agenda.

The list of these possible new items has been enumerated in the report, among them the item that was proposed by the delegation of the Czech Republic, "Review of existing norms of international law applicable to space debris". This was originally put forward as a proposal in 1996, and we believe that now, following the completion of the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on drafting a technical report on these matters, the time is right to introduce this particular issue concerning space debris on to the agenda of the Subcommittee.

I would also like to refer to a document submitted by the delegation of Germany, supported by a number of other States, relating to the revision of the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. I believe that this has been a very useful initiative. We fully share the concerns of the delegation of Germany and other delegations expressed in this paper, and we are ready to consider this working paper in a constructive manner and in greater detail. I believe that several comments have already been made, including those made by the delegation of Italy during the last session of the Subcommittee, and we are also ready to support that initiative.

On the basis of the document submitted by the delegation of Germany, I believe the Subcommittee should continue in its endeavours to rationalize the Subcommittee's agenda, taking into account the views of all delegations. We sincerely hope that this might lead to a conclusion that would be adopted by consensus and that

would be a further step towards the improvement of the Subcommittee's work.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your clarificational statement. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE (Germany):** My delegation would like to comment on its working paper concerning restructuring the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. Following the statement made by the distinguished representative of China, we do not need to further introduce this item. His statement made it perfectly clear what the intention and thrust of the proposal is.

The distinguished representatives of Colombia and Ecuador, as well as the distinguished representative of Brazil, made some pertinent comments concerning the future treatment of the question of the geostationary orbit. We fully understand the position taken by certain countries, even if we do not share their views, and we feel that we should accommodate the thinking of these countries as far as possible.

In the meantime, some consultations have been held with these various countries. We believe we can accommodate the views expressed, especially those of the delegations of Colombia and Ecuador. All delegations should have seen the document containing this initiative, i.e. the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-eighth session (page 16). Therefore I will not read the entire text but only the proposed changes, which we hope will accommodate the various views expressed during this debate and in the consultations.

The three changes on page 16 of document A/AC.105/721 are as follows. We are speaking here of the working paper submitted under A and quoted under A. The first change would be in point 2(a)(i), which starts with the words "Standing items". Here, to the sentence in brackets starting "To provide an opportunity for reports on additional signature or ratification", we would add the following: "... as well as the application of these treaties, as well as information on space law-related activities of international organizations". The last part would in fact be added after the brackets: I will therefore read this change again:

"To provide an opportunity for reports on additional signature or ratification (as well as the application of these treaties), as well as information on space law-related activities of international organizations."

The next amendment is the important point raised by the distinguished representatives of Ecuador and

Colombia. We would like to move the topic "geostationary orbit" from single issues to standing items, as well as delimitation. We would have under point 3 of standing item "Delimitation/geostationary orbit". I think this accommodated the views expressed by the delegations of Ecuador and Colombia. Under standing items, there would be a point 4, "Information on space law-related activities by international organizations".

These are the amendments, and I hope this is clear to everyone. If there are any queries, I am of course happy to respond to them.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Your proposed amendments are perfectly clear. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

**Mr. H. CHARRY SAMPER (Colombia)** (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation would like to see this text in writing in order to be able to give our views on it.

Our initial reaction would be to suggest an addition to item 1, as proposed by the delegation of Germany. If my delegation understood correctly, it was proposed to remove the brackets from the last part of (i), according to my notes. However, we would like to see this in writing, as well as information on space law and related activities of international organizations. We would prefer the wording to read "cooperation activities of international organizations".

On the question of the delimitation of space, which is a fairly broad and complex question, and the geostationary orbit, it is in principle a good idea to move it under the "Standing questions" part. But we would also have to add the proposal of the distinguished representative of Germany, on the understanding that the working group created for this purpose should be convened.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

**Mr. K. SALAZAR (Venezuela)** (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation was also present during the debate on the proposal for the future agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. On that occasion, the debate also highlighted the character and scope of standing items as a notion. We are unaware of any United Nations body referring to such items, and it might be appropriate to seek a more dynamic and flexible form or term, rather than "standing" or "permanent". That conveys a certain rigidity; in this world of constant change, that does not seem such a good idea.

During these consultations, we also discussed the qualifies as permanent, as raising some difficulties for certain delegations. The delegation of Brazil referred to setting categories and that may not be appropriate. Perhaps we could just refer to regular or ordinary. My delegation has certain misgivings with the use of the word "permanent" or "standing" because in accordance with common United Nations practice, we know of no body that sets such categories as outlined by the delegation of Brazil.

With a view to seeking a satisfactory term that would be acceptable to my delegation, perhaps we might consider using a different word that allows this to be dynamic. If we are thinking of the geostationary orbit as being a permanent item, it looks as if we are just putting it to one side without reaching any conclusions. We must try to show that it is possible to reach a conclusion. My delegation would therefore prefer to see a different expression found for this category.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this time? I see none. May I request the distinguished representatives of Colombia and Germany to consult and prepare an appropriate text by this afternoon, following consultations, so that we can consider this item first thing this afternoon and conclude our discussion on agenda item 7.

Is this acceptable? I see no objections. Therefore we will conclude our discussion of agenda item 7 now, and reopen it this afternoon.

#### **Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-sixth session**

With regard to agenda item 6, we have two proposals that have now been distributed. One is a proposal by the delegation of the United States and the other is the proposal by the delegation of Germany on behalf of various countries. I would suggest that we try and conclude our discussion on this so at least the Committee's consideration of agenda item 6 could be concluded.

The first proposal is from the delegation of Germany, on behalf of various countries: Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, etc., which is before you (document A/AC.105/C.1/L.227). Perhaps I could ask the delegation of Germany to outline the changes, if any, to this proposal. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE (Germany):** I confess to being somewhat confused: are we now referring to agenda

item 6, which we had originally planned to take up earlier this afternoon?

**The CHAIRMAN:** What was proposed earlier was that as some delegations had not had an opportunity to look at the paper, the paper would be distributed, as it now has been. As we are running out of time, the idea is to try and conclude our discussion of agenda item 6 now, thus leaving more time available this afternoon. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE (Germany):** I understand that all delegations now have the text of this paper before them. My delegation could therefore repeat what it said earlier.

Under item 3, we would like to add the following sentence:

"Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring the Earth's environment."

This would be the addition to point 3. The former point 3 would then become point 4; point 4 would become point 5, etc.

The same addition of the same sentence would need to be added under the agenda items for the year 2001, at the same place as agenda item 3. The following agenda items would accordingly change numbers as previously outlined. This would be the factual addition.

At the end of the chapeau, my delegation would like to replace the last half of the following sentence, which would then read as follows:

"The Committee adopted the following agendas for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the sessions in 2000 and 2001, and the continuation under such an agenda structure."

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I hope this is now clear to delegations. Can we now approve this proposal? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

**Mr. P. PALACIOS (Ecuador)** (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation has doubts here, as was the case with the other proposal submitted by the delegation of Germany.

When this discussion took place in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the question was why, as from 2001, should the question of the geostationary orbit

be removed from the Subcommittee's agenda. Therefore we have the same point here.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Germany.

**Mr. O. GARBE (Germany):** To accommodate the comments made by the distinguished representative of Ecuador, my delegation suggests that we take up under the provisional agenda for 2001 the question of the geostationary orbit, also under point 4, as (c).

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. It would come under point 5, because new point 3 has been added regarding remote sensing. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

**Mr. P. PALACIOS (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*):** My delegation is somewhat puzzled here. It is almost like a bargaining process here: first it is removed, then it is put back in, etc. Objections had already been raised during the Subcommittee meeting, and still a paper has been produced that does not resolve this issue as the question now has to be put back in. My delegation is opposed to the use of these categories because misinterpretations that result from such a process that could be detrimental to some.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

**Mr. H. CHARRY SAMPER (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*):** My delegation supports what was said by the distinguished representative of Ecuador. However, the Chair was kind enough to ask us to meet with the distinguished representative of Germany to try and work on a compromise text for the working paper on a revision of the Legal Subcommittee's agenda.

At present, it is difficult for my delegation to accept this. A number of delegations have doubts as to this category system. Therefore I would like to ask the Chair to relieve my delegation of that duty.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I would appeal to both you and the distinguished representative of Ecuador to meet with the distinguished representative of Germany, and the Committee will take this matter up again this afternoon. The Committee seems to be going round in circles at present and accomplishing nothing.

If it is possible to hold these informal consultations, I feel it would be a fruitful move. Is this acceptable? I am sure I am speaking for all delegations here present: trying to resolve the issue here is not very

satisfactory and it would be far better if informal consultations could be held.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Venezuela.

**Mr. K. SALAZAR (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*):** During the sessions of the two Subcommittee's this year, an intense debate took place on these matters related to the new work programmes for both bodies. As the Chair has already said, this is a question that must be considered more carefully and thoroughly by those delegations concerned.

My delegation also has a problem in accepting the setting of categories of topics because the orbit has such a priority, as has been stated in so many General Assembly resolutions. These are priority questions. And the term "priority" should be reflected in this type of document. My delegation believes that to set such categories raises problems, and we would agree with the Chair that some delegations should consult to try and reach a satisfactory solution for submission to the Committee.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your support. I suggest that the distinguished representatives of Ecuador, Colombia, Germany and any other interested delegations should consult so that we can achieve a suitable text. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Indonesia.

**Mr. H. DJOJODIHARDJO (Indonesia):** My delegation can understand the point being made by the delegation of Colombia, that probably we should retain the agenda as it has been to date. Certainly we would like to support the views expressed by the delegation of Colombia, and we would be happy to join in informal consultations to try and formulate an appropriate wording.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Perhaps the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Venezuela might also help to reach an appropriate solution in these informal consultations.

I hope that we can take up the second proposal, put forward by the delegation of the United States. This has been circulated; it is one paragraph that reads as follows:

"The Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should review international compliance with the ITU standards and recommend IADC policy concerning the disposal of satellites in the geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful

life. The area of focus could be expanded to include the disposal of upper stages used to achieve geosynchronous orbits and debris issues associated with geosynchronous transfer orbits."

Is this text acceptable? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

**Mr. L. PEREK** (Czech Republic): My delegation supports this proposal, but we would like to add one short sentence at the end, as follows:

"The Secretariat has been requested to compile relevant data on space objects in the geostationary orbit for the above review."

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

**Mr. K. HODGKINS** (United States of America): My delegation has received some informal reactions to this proposal and we would like to make one further amendment to our original paragraph. The phrase "compliance with" should be replaced by the phrase "application of".

In the same paragraph, where there is reference to "recommended IADC policy", we would like to revise that phrase to read "IADC recommendations". The sentence would thus read as follows:

"The Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should review international application of the ITU standards and IADC recommendations concerning disposal of satellites ..."

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

**Mr. P. PALACIOS** (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation supports this proposal, with the additional as proposed by the delegation of the Czech Republic. It is in the interests of both the developing and developed countries alike to adequately preserve future use of the geostationary orbit.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. A. YAKOVENKO** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Could we ask the delegations participating in the Committee to postpone taking a decision on this matter until the afternoon session of the Committee. My delegation finds itself unable to support the United States proposal at present, as it still has no instructions on this.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I think all three proposals will have to be taken up this afternoon. The third proposal has not yet been presented; the second proposal, by the United States, is available to delegations; the first proposal should be appropriately amended and made acceptable to everyone following the lunch break, and following the informal consultations to be held between the interested delegations.

As far as agenda item 7 is concerned, we hope to have an acceptable formulation available by this afternoon. We will thus take up agenda items 6, 7, 8 and 9 this afternoon and try to complete our work on them as quickly as possible, by which time we hope to have available to the Committee all the necessary papers, clarifications and – most important of all – agreements.

The meeting is adjourned.

*The sitting adjourned at 1 p.m.*