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Chairperson: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)
later: Ms. Schroderus-Fox (Vice-Chairperson) (Finland)
later: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 30: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/64/20)

1. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), praised the work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, assisting developing countries, and preventing the use of space technology for nefarious purposes. Outer space provided support for development in a variety of ways, including communications, disaster management, and the effective use of natural resources.

2. ASEAN welcomed the collaborative efforts under the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) programme and its implementation pursuant to the recommendations of the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). It encouraged UN-SPIDER, through its offices, workshops and missions, to continue sharing expertise with countries all around the world. The recent earthquake and tsunami as well as the tropical storms that had affected many countries in the Pacific region served as a grim reminder that much work remained to be done. The international community should therefore strengthen its efforts to develop an early warning and prevention mechanism, including through the use of space technology.

3. UNOOSA and COPUOS should promote capacity-building, especially in developing countries, to ensure the rational and peaceful uses of outer space, and to help prevent abuse and promote equitable access. ASEAN supported continued partnership at regional and global levels and particularly welcomed two recent developments in the Asia-Pacific region — the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the holding of the 15th session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP). Such initiatives would foster closer cooperation and promote the peaceful uses of outer space in accordance with mutually agreed norms and principles. The ASEAN Subcommittee on Space Technology and Application was working on projects to promote cooperation in sustainable economic and social development, biodiversity and disaster

management, among other constructive purposes, through the use of space technology.

4. Speaking in his capacity as the representative of Thailand, he noted that in the previous year, Thailand had successfully launched its first remote sensing satellite and now stood ready to share any disaster information it obtained. Alongside India, Japan and the Republic of Korea, Thailand had become one of the four nations to share information with Sentinel Asia, a regional project using satellite information for disaster management as part of UN-SPIDER.

5. *Ms. Schroderus-Fox* (Finland), *Vice-Chairperson*, took the Chair.

6. **Mr. Vidal** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the associated countries the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, said that COPUOS, together with its two subcommittees, had built up an impressive legacy in international space law and cooperation. The proposed development of a United Nations space policy to improve coordination between Member States and the United Nations system in applying space science and technology to the development needs of all countries should allow COPUOS to maintain and even strengthen its prominent position.

7. One of the challenges to space cooperation was undoubtedly the long-term sustainability of space activities, a concern made more pressing by the recent collisions between objects in space and the proliferation of space debris, which threatened the entire world and not just those countries engaged in space activities. MERCOSUR and its associated countries were committed to using the Space Conferences of the Americas and other regional meetings to improve regional and interregional cooperation.

8. Space technology was a vital tool for implementing the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and responding properly to the impact of climate change, drought, desertification, loss of biodiversity, the food and energy crises, and disasters.

9. Cooperative action, including South-South cooperation, should be directed towards capacity-building as a priority. The developing countries must have the possibility of receiving, interpreting and producing

data on space applications in areas of benefit to their people. The reinforcement of national and regional capacities, investment in space technology, and the teaching of space science and technology were prime objectives for the developing countries. If geospatial data were promoted as part of the public domain, the demand would stimulate the development of space activities for peaceful purposes, as would a sustained international dialogue and a stronger international legal framework.

10. The recommendations of UNISPACE III must continue to be put into effect until they produced concrete results, and there must be more communication between COPUOS and the Commission on Sustainable Development, especially with regard to space applications related to the Commission's next thematic cycle. Such interaction could be a model for closer links between COPUOS and other bodies, programmes and institutions involved in promoting development, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the regional commissions and other institutions that could conduct sustainable development projects based on space applications. With the many pandemics currently threatening the world, it would also be very timely for the Committee to hold a panel discussion on space technology and pandemics, which, like past panel discussions, would be an excellent opportunity to exchange useful experience and information on the promotion of development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications should, for its part, focus on areas in which the majority of developing countries could profitably participate.

11. A workshop held in Peru in September 2009 on integrated space applications for the sustainable development of the mountainous regions of the Andean countries had highlighted the impetus that space technologies could give to the development of the Andes in areas such as agriculture, mining, natural resource and glacier monitoring and the conservation of protected areas. A useful regional programme comprising workshops, training courses, symposiums and lectures would be held in 2010, organized by specialized university departments and institutes in Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

12. UN-SPIDER had continued to prove its worth in the recent succession of tropical cyclones, tsunamis and earthquakes in South-East Asia and the South Pacific, and also in instances of drought, flooding and

landslides in South America. UN-SPIDER would have a greater impact if it coordinated regularly with other programmes using space data and improved its efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The signing of cooperation agreements for the establishment of UN-SPIDER regional support offices was a welcome development.

13. **Mr. Hemrá** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that over the past 40 years, space technology had proved essential not only for exploring outer space, but also in addressing many global challenges. Space technology had become crucial to the delivery of communications services to some of the most isolated regions of the world and was used in many national communications systems. It was also used, and had potential to be used even more, in forecasting and preventing natural disasters, as well as to more accurately measure phenomena linked to climate change and mitigate their effects. In that regard, the implementation of the UN-SPIDER programme was central to ensuring that all countries had both access to and the capacity to use space-based information during all phases of disaster management, including the risk reduction phase.

14. The growing number of actors in outer space was welcome but could also pose a risk to the security of space assets. While additional legally binding multilateral commitments had been proposed against military threats, short-term progress was needed to counter all types of threats. Voluntary confidence- and transparency-building measures could bring effective security benefits. The European Union had proposed a draft Code of Conduct for outer space activities, which was based on three principles: the freedom for all to use outer space for peaceful purposes, preservation of the safety and integrity of space objects in orbit, and due consideration of the legitimate security and defence needs of States. The purpose of the code was to enhance the safety, security and predictability of outer space activities for all; in codifying best practices, the code contributed to transparency and confidence-building measures and complemented the existing framework regulating outer space activities.

15. The European Union was concerned about the issue of space debris; it was important for States to

implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee. Attention needed to be focused on the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources.

16. The European Union welcomed the outcome of the 52nd session of the COPUOS and the agreement to include two new items in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In order to ensure a coherent approach, there needed to be communication between COPUOS and the Conference on Disarmament regarding outer space activities. The cooperation between Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency in preparing the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space was a good example of successful interagency cooperation within the United Nations.

17. The European Union was continuing to work on its global navigation systems — Galileo and the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service — and, as of 1 October 2009, the latter's satellite navigation signal was operationally ready as an open and free service. It was encouraging to see the progress being made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems.

18. *Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar) resumed the Chair.*

19. **Ms. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba) said that although outer space had the potential to be used for such purposes as sustainable development and the prevention of pandemics and natural disasters, the current legal regime applicable to outer space was not sufficient to prevent an arms race. The Conference on Disarmament, as the only forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations, should lead the way in urgent negotiations on a multilateral agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. COPUOS should also play a leading role both in the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space and in developing ethical principles and legal instruments to guarantee the completely peaceful, fair and non-discriminatory use of all space applications.

20. In spite of its limited resources, Cuba was continuing to research and develop space applications for peaceful uses, including meteorology and

telemedicine. High-resolution satellite images and preventive evacuation measures had led to a considerable reduction in the number of casualties during the devastating hurricanes that had recently struck the island. Satellite images were also being used to detect forest fires.

21. While the right of all States to explore and use outer space for the benefit of all humanity was a universally accepted legal principle, full autonomy for all States in that regard was not technologically or economically viable in the foreseeable future. As more and more States were engaging in space-related activities there was a growing urgency for greater regional and international cooperation. Sharing experience and technology was particularly important, especially for developing countries. In that regard, the relationship between COPUOS and the Commission on Sustainable Development should be strengthened. COPUOS should examine the issues of climate change and food security; international cooperation was vital in that regard.

22. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that the Baikonur launch complex in Kazakhstan was facilitating space science development and technology and helping to foster international space cooperation. Her country, in partnership with the Russian Federation, would be implementing a large-scale project for construction of the Baiterek rocket space complex. Work on the KazSat-2 geo-stationed satellite was almost completed. Kazakhstan had developed a legislative framework on outer space exploration, and had adopted a space programme to run until 2020. Scientific research institutes and laboratories were constantly being upgraded, and two candidate cosmonauts from Kazakhstan were nearing the end of their training. Her Government sought to ensure the country's future role in space programmes at all levels by building a pool of highly qualified space professionals through sponsorship of students at the world's most prestigious universities.

23. Her Government maintained productive scientific contacts with a number of Governments in a spirit of cooperation pursuant to the recommendations contained in the COPUOS report. It had recently signed an intergovernmental agreement with France on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space, as well as agreements with the European Aerospace and Defence Company on an outer space system for remote sensing of the Earth and the construction of a spacecraft assembly and testing complex in Astana.

The establishment of such potential in Kazakhstan was important for ensuring sustainable development.

24. She commended the COPUOS recommendations, especially those relating to promotion of regional and interregional cooperation and the wider use of aerospace equipment and technologies for economic growth and sustainable development. Her delegation supported the use of those technologies for water resource management, emergency warning, prevention and mitigation, environmental monitoring, especially in developing countries, and the global navigation satellite system. In conclusion, she reaffirmed her country's commitment to strengthening international cooperation and called on Member States, especially those with large outer space potential, to assist actively in preventing an arms race in outer space.

25. **Mr. Ansari** (India) said that India's space programme had made a significant stride in space exploration in 2008 with the placement of the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft in a 100 km circular orbit around the Moon; three-dimensional and chemical and mineralogical mapping of the entire lunar surface had been undertaken, using 11 scientific instruments built in India and five other countries. In April 2009, an experimental satellite, ANUSAT, built by Indian academics and students, had been successfully launched, and further launches, in collaboration with other countries, were scheduled for the coming months.

26. India had made notable progress in the area of space applications, seamlessly integrating advances in space technology in national development goals, especially in vital services. A two-year old tele-education project provided high-quality education countrywide, reaching over 35,000 Education Satellite (EDUSAT) classrooms at primary, secondary and university levels, while a telemedicine project connected 375 rural and district hospitals to 57 specialized hospitals in major cities. Over 470 village resource centres had been established, and could be a model for other developing countries.

27. India attached great importance to bilateral and multilateral relations with space agencies and space-related bodies and had signed formal memorandums of understanding with over 30 countries and international organizations, many of which paved the way for sharing expertise in the use of space-derived geo-information for sustainable development. Its joint missions with France would provide useful data for understanding tropical

weather phenomena. India also played an active role in several international bodies in fostering partnership with their member countries in the use of space technology for the benefit of humankind.

28. India conducted many satellite-based application projects with direct relevance to sustainable development. It was actively participating in the initiative of APRSAF for sharing satellite data on disaster mitigation and had recently hosted the eighth International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) International Conference on Low-Cost Planetary Missions. His country took special interest in capacity-building and services that enabled developing countries to apply space technology. Thus far, 824 scholars from the Asia-Pacific region and 27 from outside the region had attended the United Nations-affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific operating out of India; his Government hoped for greater participation from member countries. India was entering the phase of exploring the inner solar system and building capabilities for exploring the outer solar system, which would be furthered with the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter and its follow-on missions. His Government had also been discussing at various levels the need to embark on a human spaceflight programme.

29. **Mr. Taleb** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation supported the need to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III relating to the use of space-based systems for areas such as agriculture and land use, water resource management, and disaster management, and for dealing with climate change. It agreed that local capacities should be taken into consideration when implementing the recommendations. Innovative mechanisms and strategies needed to be developed in order to ensure that all people, especially those in developing countries, benefited from space technology and its applications.

30. Outer space technology must be harnessed to combat pandemics. The panel discussion entitled "Space technology and pandemics" would be a welcome first step, and should be followed up with further collective action. The peaceful and responsible character of outer space activities could be consolidated by ensuring greater transparency. It was important to give developing States a greater role in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. His delegation endorsed the importance of providing non-discriminatory access to remote sensing data and to derived information at a reasonable cost or

free of charge and in a timely manner, as well as the importance of building capacity in the use of remote sensing technology, in particular to meet the needs of developing countries.

31. Through its General Organization of Remote Sensing (GORS), the Syrian Arab Republic had concluded cooperation agreements at the Arab and international level and was completing over 60 scientific and environmental projects, including the compilation of an atlas of the country's historical sites; an initiative to identify places to dig wells in arid regions; an analysis of water resources in the Euphrates region; a digital road map of the Syrian Arab Republic using a Geographic Information System; and the establishment of two astronomical observatories. GORS was prepared to train staff from Arab and neighbouring countries.

32. In order to facilitate the development of a global disaster management system, it was essential to implement the workplan of UN-SPIDER. There was an urgent need for international cooperation to prevent the militarization of outer space.

33. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan) said that the development of equitable international standards and coordinated policies on the peaceful uses of outer space was very important in ensuring the use of outer space resources in the interest of all humanity as well as in promoting moral and legal principles to guide the space activities of States. The United Nations played a coordinating role, enabling States to confront the challenges of development as well as those of climate change and natural disasters, the management of natural resources, the food crisis and other challenges which faced all countries but especially the developing countries.

34. His delegation urged that cooperation be further developed between the Commission on Sustainable Development and COPUOS as a means of promoting the exchange of expertise on the technological applications of space in the service of the objectives of sustainable development, including implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in areas such as agriculture and land use, water resource management, disaster management and overall resource management in addition to public health and the combating of pandemics. In that connection his delegation welcomed the current preparations for the Third African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development to be

held in Algiers in December 2009 and also the IAA African Regional Conference that was to meet in Abuja in November 2009.

35. In view of the success of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the assistance offered to the developing countries in various areas, his delegation noted with concern the limited resources available for implementing the Programme and endorsed the appeal to States and organizations to continue their support. His delegation commended the progress that had been achieved in space-system-based disaster management support as described in the report of UN-SPIDER and supported the review of the recommendations of UNISPACE III with a view to their full implementation. It was also desirable to continue improving the access of the developing countries to space technology and developing their capacity to make use of the information provided by space science and technology and their applications in the interest of achieving economic and social development and addressing the challenges of natural disasters and other obstacles to development.

36. His delegation supported the efforts to promote greater transparency in space activities, to curb the arms race in outer space and to strengthen approaches to maintaining the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and avoiding tension and mistrust. There was a need for further work on addressing the problem of space debris and for legislative measures to make outer space cleaner and less hazardous.

37. **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** (China) said that his country, a long-time advocate of peaceful uses of outer space, called on the international community to build a harmonious outer space order conducive to peace, development, cooperation and the rule of law. His delegation looked forward to the prompt initiation of negotiations on the draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects, jointly tabled by China and the Russian Federation at the 2008 Conference on Disarmament, which had met with widespread support. Over the previous year, China had strengthened its capacities in five major areas: entry into space; satellite development and applications; space infrastructure and ground support; manned space flights; and deep space exploration. Its lunar exploration programme had culminated in the successful impact on the Moon by the Chang'e 1 lunar probe earlier in 2009. Completion of the Hainan

spaceport would greatly enhance the country's space-launching capabilities.

38. The widespread use of space technology in a number of social and development areas had brought about profound changes in human lives. China was actively engaged in international exchange and cooperation activities for peaceful uses of outer space in an effort to promote common development. It had long been a stalwart supporter of UN-SPIDER and had reached agreement with UNOOSA on a host country agreement for the Beijing office. His country also hosted the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and actively supported its application for observer status with COPUOS. In May 2009, China had signed an agreement with Brazil to export Earth observation data to the African region from the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS-02B), using ground stations in South Africa, Egypt and Spain. It was ready to cooperate on space technology with more countries, including developing countries, so as to contribute to efforts to enable all humankind to benefit from outer space activities.

39. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan) said that Pakistan welcomed the leading role played by COPUOS in strengthening international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space, including in the areas of disaster prevention and socio-economic development. It supported the efforts of COPUOS related to the environment and health, an area with immense potential that must be explored for the sake of all mankind. COPUOS must ensure that benefits from space-science technology reached the developing countries; however, the developed countries must have the political will to work with developing countries, including through sharing of experiences, technology transfers and new technologies, and non-discriminatory, affordable and timely access to data and information. Pakistan supported the call for rational and equitable access for all States to the geostationary orbit. His Government remained committed to the goals agreed upon at UNISPACE III and supported UN-SPIDER in line with the goal of ensuring equal access for all countries to space-based information needed to manage disasters.

40. The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission worked on projects and programmes in many fields useful to the country's development and was making significant progress in developing a remote sensing satellite system. It had

established infrastructure for space-based research and development activities and was planning to start a space education and awareness programme. In order to increase its telecommunications infrastructure and promote the use of satellite communications to serve socio-economic development, Pakistan had leased a communication satellite, PAKSAT-1, which would be replaced in 2011 with PAKSAT-1R.

41. As a party to the five United Nations treaties on outer space, Pakistan was deeply concerned by the threat of weaponization and an arms race in outer space. The insistence by States with major space capabilities on incorporating the use of outer space in their military doctrines was a dangerous trend which would limit progress on the peaceful uses of outer space and jeopardize security. Confidence-building and greater transparency were needed; a comprehensive convention would contribute to that end. The Conference on Disarmament and COPUOS must cooperate closely in their work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

42. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that the benefits of the peaceful uses of outer space were more accessible than ever to the general population. The work of COPUOS constituted the foundation for a better understanding of how human development interacted with the Earth's systems. Colombia attached great importance to putting space technologies in the service of society and sustainable development. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications included thematic issues that were a priority for developing countries. The COPUOS workshop on the theme of integrated space technologies and space-based information for analysis and prediction of climate change had arrived at conclusions and recommendations that would be useful as inputs at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2009.

43. International cooperation on education and training in space-based technology was essential; efforts to strengthen research and training centres in priority thematic areas would enable developing countries to receive, interpret and process space-based data. In that regard, the Colombian Space Commission supported efforts and investments in strategic national programmes. Training in space law was especially important to Colombia; it supported cooperation initiatives in that area and welcomed the proposal for a basic course on space law to be offered by the regional centres for space science and technology.

44. Highlighting the connections COPUOS had established with agencies of the United Nations system and with international institutions, she said that greater participation by regional groups, especially from Latin America, at their administrative and decision-making levels of such institutions would enable better dissemination of their knowledge and goals. Colombia reiterated its commitment to regional cooperation; it appreciated such regional efforts as the work of the Space Conference of the Americas and supported the goals contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Fifth Conference.

45. As noted by the Technical and Scientific Subcommittee, the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource at risk of becoming saturated. Its use must be based on the principle of rational and equitable access for all countries; accordingly, the needs of developing countries and the geographic situation of certain countries must be taken into account. She welcomed the proposed United Nations space policy, which would permit coordination among Member States and the United Nations system in the application of space-based science and technology, taking into account the development needs of all countries.

46. **Mr. Davide** (Philippines) said that his country, united after the recent tragic losses caused by typhoons Ketsana and Parma, was grateful to the United Nations and the international community for their support and appreciated the assistance of UN-SPIDER. With an annual average of 19 typhoons, the Philippines made frequent use of its programmes. The satellite data and imagery provided by UN-SPIDER would be used by the relevant national agencies to plan for future disaster mitigation and response, particularly in high-risk areas. UN-SPIDER had consolidated satellite data on typhoon Ketsana and its impact, including post-disaster imagery to support the response effort, and, in addition, it had facilitated the activation of international mechanisms, acquired funding, and provided constant updates of space-based information available for relief efforts in an information link to the UN-SPIDER knowledge portal. Sentinel Asia had cooperated in the aftermath of typhoon Ketsana, and the International Charter Space and Major Disasters had been activated to support the response to typhoon Parma.

47. The Philippines supported the efforts of UNOOSA to further implement UN-SPIDER activities and bring the benefits of space technology to everyone. It noted with satisfaction the increase in the availability of

space-based information to support disaster management and emergency response activities; however, there must be accurate statistics on the available satellite resources that could be used in disaster reduction and the gap in technical guidance on inter-operational space information products from different satellites for different disaster management phases must be closed. UN-SPIDER should lead the way in discussing ways and means for harmonized or cooperative development and provision of inter-operative products and national service networks for efficient service requests and effective use of products by countries. Gaps between UN-SPIDER and other relevant initiatives should also be identified so that duplication of work could be avoided and data use could be maximized. The Philippines hoped to host a UN-SPIDER office in Manila by June 2010.

48. His Government supported COPUOS efforts in the field of space and climate change; the efforts by several countries to make their space programmes more practical; and the expansion of UN-SPIDER to other United Nations Member States. It encouraged States that had not yet done so to accede to the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and encouraged States parties to amend their laws to reflect their treaty commitments.

49. **Mr. St. Aimee** (Saint Lucia) said that for small States like Saint Lucia the very concept of the peaceful uses of outer space was critical to international peace and security as technology and science continued to expand the scope of meeting the challenges of sustainability and human development. The weaponization of outer space was a major obstacle to peace and security. Knowledge gained from the increased understanding of outer space must be used for the benefit of humanity, rather than contributing to its destruction. The development of an international security regime governing outer space was therefore essential.

50. Climate change highlighted the need for satellite technology to monitor weather patterns. Not only could it monitor extreme events but it could also provide early-warning systems which could complement land-based seismic data systems in order to reduce the impact of climatic and geological crises. Saint Lucia was encouraged by the progress made by UN-SPIDER.

51. His delegation agreed that the strategic role of COPUOS must be strengthened and that clear objectives were needed to achieve the goals of making

the benefits of space science and technology available to all humanity. COPUOS must enhance its cooperation and coordination with other bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system, in particular the relevant specialized agencies. Saint Lucia was encouraged by the recognition on the part of COPUOS that space-based information could play an important role in supporting the sustainability challenges facing small island developing States and other vulnerable States. It intended to highlight that perspective through its active participation in the Alliance of Small Island States.

52. His Government was encouraged by the work at regional levels to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes, in particular the Space Conferences of the Americas. It believed that the European Union project to adopt a code of conduct for outer space activities could serve as an important catalyst for the emergence of a broad international code of conduct and subsequent evolution of a space governance regime within the framework of the United Nations.

53. His delegation supported the need for the full implementation and follow-up of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, especially the use of space-based systems for such areas as agriculture and land use, water resource management, disaster management and overall resource management. It agreed that such uses of space technology would foster sustainable development and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It looked forward to the panel discussion on space technology and pandemics.

54. International cooperation was needed to support greater efforts to avoid collisions of space objects and the re-entry of debris. Saint Lucia was heartened that some States were implementing space debris mitigation measures and standards and took note of the proposal for an international platform of data and information on objects in outer space. At the same time, Saint Lucia commended the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects for its draft recommendations on the international response to the threat of near-Earth object impacts.

55. **Mr. Belkheir** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) expressed appreciation for the efforts of COPUOS in framing international standards for space activities and encouraging international cooperation on establishing a legal basis for space activities. He welcomed the initiative of the Chairman in adopting a comprehensive approach to the promotion of coordination between Member States and the United Nations in the

application of space science and technology to address the challenges of development in all countries.

56. Space science had a major impact on both economic and environmental development, both because of the effects of climate change, desertification and shortage of water, and as a result of natural disasters; his delegation therefore emphasized that space science was a matter for all countries without exception and not just for the developed countries.

57. His delegation emphasized the principle set forth in article I of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies that outer space should be used in a rational manner. It was important to conserve the space environment and not to make in outer space the same environmental mistakes that had been made on Earth. Outer space must be protected from changes brought about by human activity, in particular from space debris, he strongly supported those who called for the prohibition of the placing of weapons in outer space and the use or threat of force against outer space objects, and appealed to the Committee to develop rules to restrict the militarization of outer space, insisting on the right of all States and organizations to have access to outer space for peaceful purposes. His Government supported the efforts that were being made to expand the use of the COSPAS-SARSAT international database for the registration of beacons, called on all States that owned satellites to make every effort to reduce space debris and expressed its concern at the increase in space debris in low-Earth orbits and, in particular, at the Iridium-Cosmos satellite collision which had occurred the previous February.

58. His delegation was also concerned at the potential impact on the Moon environment, and on the space environment in general, of the explosions on the surface of the Moon in October 2009 and called on all States to refrain from causing explosions in outer space for any reason other than ensuring the survival of human beings on Earth.

59. In connection with early warning systems as a means of reducing the number of victims of natural disasters by providing timely information to the regions affected, his delegation noted with satisfaction the programme of UN-SPIDER for the biennium 2010-2011.

60. As the participants in the international conference on remote sensing techniques and geographical

information systems, held in his country in October 2009, had agreed, space science was indispensable to development and should be available to all. The conference had seen the opening of a satellite image receiving station in the south of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya covering a number of African countries which was an important part of the Libyan-African space programme. The station was designed to use data received from the satellites in all economic and urbanization development programmes, both at the national level and in Africa as a whole, as well as in prospecting for minerals, determining the quality of agricultural crops, soil classification, the early detection of agricultural pests, monitoring desertification and assisting in the detection of mine fields.

61. **Mr. Sin So Ho** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes was a legitimate right of all countries. As a State party to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, his country had successfully launched its Kwangmyongsong 2 satellite, developed entirely from its own resources and technology, on 5 April 2009. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had accumulated a wealth of experience from the launch and operation of the satellite and made significant progress in laying the foundations for future satellite launchings.

62. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea requested the Legal Subcommittee to provide legal clarification of two issues regarding the Security Council's discussion of the satellite launch and its adoption of a so-called "presidential statement". The first issue was whether or not the peaceful launch of the satellite was against international law. If it was not a breach of international law, the action taken by the Security Council should be examined. That action had caused serious confrontation and aggravated tension on the Korean peninsula. The second issue was whether or not it was fair for the Security Council to call in question the exercise by Member States of their sovereign rights pursuant to international law. The action taken by the Security Council clearly indicated that the Council was not only devoid of democracy but also engaged in double standards and partiality, while being used as a tool by some countries to justify their high-handedness. His Government had launched its satellite in an open and transparent manner. The United States of America, claiming stubbornly that it was a

"ballistic missile" launch for a military purpose, had brought the issue before the Security Council. There was no case in the history of the United Nations where the Security Council had made an issue of a satellite launch. It was also unprecedented for the Council to condemn the launch of a satellite by a State party to the Outer Space Treaty and impose sanctions against it. The country that had launched most satellites so far and currently possessed more than 400 space objects for both military and civilian uses in outer space was the United States of America. The first country to face condemnation and sanctions should therefore be the United States itself. The additional hard-line measures taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in response to the adoption of the so-called presidential statement by the Security Council had been taken to defend its national sovereignty.

63. As a State party to the Outer Space Treaty, his Government would continue to fulfil its responsibilities and role in the peaceful use of outer space and actively promote the exchange of technology and cooperation in the scientific exploration of outer space with developing countries and other nations.

64. **Mr. Ariyoshi** (Japan) said that his country had adopted a five-year plan for space policy in June 2009 that aimed to shift priority from a research-oriented to a utilization-oriented policy, to the benefit of its people and the international community. Under the plan, first, Japan would accelerate diplomatic efforts to regulate space activities and would develop its human resources so that its people could play a leading role in international space forums. It would use space technology to protect people from the threat of disasters, climate change and other catastrophic events. Its IBUKI satellite, which measured greenhouse gases at the global level with high accuracy, would soon start to distribute data to general users.

65. Second, Japan would help to solve global environmental and energy problems through leading-edge research and development and promote space science and human space activities. Its KAYUGA lunar exploration mission, completed in June 2009, had acquired large amounts of data which furthered knowledge of the Moon's origin and evolution. The assembly of the largest laboratory on the International Space Station, the Japanese Experiment Module, had been completed in July 2009. A Japanese astronaut had stayed on board the Space Station for more than four months, Japan's first experience of a long-term stay in

outer space. Using a powerful new launch vehicle, Japan had successfully launched a transfer vehicle, which had docked with the International Space Station in November 2009. The transfer vehicle would play an important role in transportation to the Space Station.

66. Third, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency had developed its own space debris mitigation standard and had played an important part in the work of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee. Japan would promote the observation of orbital objects to mitigate the debris problem through international cooperation to remove objects and would participate actively in developing an appropriate international framework for debris management.

67. In December 2008, Japan and Viet Nam had organized the fifteenth session of APRSAF, where there had been discussion of concrete steps to enhance international cooperation. Two new initiatives, for the observation of climate change using earth observation satellites and for the joint development of small satellites by space agencies in the Asia-Pacific region, had been launched at the session of the Forum which, it was hoped, could serve as a model for regional space cooperation.

68. Sentinel Asia, promoted and hosted by Japan and created for the purpose of disaster management and rescue support in the Asia-Pacific region, had moved to its second stage. That stage involved an increase in the number of satellites and the high-speed, large-capacity transmission of disaster-related information using Japan's KIZUNA satellite.

69. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency was contributing to international disaster management through the provision of data from the DAICHI advanced land observing satellite and had started to collaborate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with a view to monitoring world heritage sites with biannual photographs and a database of those images, using the DAICHI satellite.

70. Japan's official development assistance included the provision of modern astronomical and educational equipment to developing countries. In collaboration with educational and space agencies in developing countries, Japan would continue to work to promote space education and support sustainable development.

71. **Mr. Rachmianto** (Indonesia) said that his country attached great importance to international

cooperation in the use of space technology for peaceful purposes and had participated in several international projects and programmes. In 1975, Indonesia had become the first developing country to operate a domestic satellite system; it was now operating its fourth-generation satellite. Its experience had proven that space-based technology could make a significant contribution to the acceleration of socio-economic development. Indonesia believed that the promotion of space-based technology for sustainable development, as well as in disaster management and mitigation, should be mainstreamed in the work of COPUOS, and encouraged a more active participation of the relevant international organizations and entities in that work.

72. Indonesia considered international cooperation to be crucial to space activities and, despite being a developing country, continued to contribute actively to such efforts as Sentinel Asia and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. It had always supported UN-SPIDER and, as a disaster-prone country, encouraged other countries to support the Platform through ways and means that would enable it to make further progress.

73. Indonesia welcomed the endorsement by the General Assembly of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS, a landmark in the endeavour to establish safeguards against damage by space debris. The implementation of the Guidelines would depend on the commitment of all countries, especially the launching countries; those countries would need to commit to transparency in their space activities and space objects, especially if those activities carried potential risks.

74. The geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource which risked saturation and over-exploitation. Indonesia called for assurances that there would be equitable access for all States, taking into account the geographical situation of equatorial countries as well as the needs and interests of developing countries in general.

75. As a State party to the Convention on Registration of objects launched into Outer Space, Indonesia had registered the space objects it had launched between 1995 and 2005 and submitted the relevant technical information. His Government was fully committed to the principle of peaceful use of outer space and its use to promote social and economic progress for all humanity. It believed that the legal

regime governing the use of outer space should be strengthened in order to deal with such new trends as commercialization, militarization and the involvement of the private sector, as well as new technologies. Consensus on the question of definition and delimitation of outer space should be accelerated through a more realistic approach that emphasized similarities. His delegation supported efforts to initiate an exchange of views with the Conference on Disarmament on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.