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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIALLO (Guinea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 72: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/39/20)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/515)

1. Mr. LASARTE (Uruguay) noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in outer space science and technology by a number of countries in the past year. It was unfortunate that international co-operation in that field was limited by financial constraints. The countries with major space capabilities seemed to prefer to provide technical assistance on a bilateral basis. Some progress had been made by the specialized agencies in their respective fields. The regional seminars had showed that there were pronounced disparities in Latin America, Asia and Africa with regard to plans for the application of space technology and awareness of the direct and indirect benefits to be obtained. Although more countries had participated in the peaceful uses of outer space, most activities were still being carried out by a small group of countries. For that reason, his delegation reiterated its hope that the "multipolarization" process would increase, particularly in the priority areas for developing countries. In such a way, more countries would enjoy the benefits of space technology and share the responsibilities which that involved. He expressed satisfaction at the work carried out on the three studies recommended by the developing countries and looked forward to the final evaluation of those studies and the adoption of appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the objectives set by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

2. His delegation stressed the importance of the connection between the remote-sensing systems and the continued availability of data and called for a greater spirit of co-operation, which could be reflected, inter alia, through the free-of-charge and non-discriminatory access to information obtained from meteorological satellites. He stressed the importance of agreed international guidelines for the design and functioning of nuclear-powered space objects and for the concept of the "safe nuclear orbit". Those guidelines should promote trust and reduce the risks of radioactive contamination of the earth's atmosphere. Furthermore, a limit should be placed on the minimum useful life of a nuclear-powered space object in orbit.

3. No significant progress had been made with regard to the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit. That was a matter for concern, particularly in view of the annual 18 per cent increase in the number of satellites in the geostationary orbit and the danger of its saturation. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the strengthening of the regional mechanisms of co-operation and the holding of interregional seminars. With regard

(Mr. Lasarte, Uruguay)

to Latin America, the first meeting of governmental experts to be held in Argentina in 1985 could provide a good opportunity for defining a regional co-operation strategy.

4. The lack of progress in the work of the Legal Sub-Committee was discouraging. His delegation stressed the need for the establishment of a legal mechanism which would govern the rights and duties of sensed and sensing States. In view of the growing number of applications of remote sensing, there was need for a system to ensure the effectiveness of such a mechanism on the basis of prior notification, prior access to the primary data and analytical information obtained within each State's territorial limits, approval for the dissemination of such data to third parties and compensation for damage. That mechanism would not only facilitate the holding of consultations between the sensed and sensing countries, but would also promote trust between both parties. No progress had been made in the elaboration of international norms for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. His delegation stressed the need for notification prior to re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, assistance to States affected in order to minimize risks, and an international code of responsibility for direct and indirect damage. Furthermore, the safety measures for radiological protection could be broadened.

5. With regard to the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit, his delegation felt that future work should concentrate on reaching agreement on general principles through COPUOS and ITU. His delegation reiterated its support for the position taken at UNISPACE 82 concerning the militarization of outer space and felt that COPUOS should be given a specific mandate in that regard and should work in co-operation with the Committee on Disarmament. Lastly, his delegation was prepared to participate in efforts to reach a consensus in order to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

6. Mr. RADENKOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that over the past years, there had been increasingly rapid development in space research and activities. In addition to the programmes of the two super-Powers, other States had started national programmes and yet others were co-operating in joint space programmes.

7. His delegation strongly supported all the activities being pursued by COPUOS, in the hope that they would develop progressively for the benefit of all countries, especially the developing countries. Unfortunately, scientific and technical progress increased the danger of an arms race in outer space, which threatened not only the peaceful use of outer space but the very survival of humanity. Great attention had been devoted to that problem both at UNISPACE 82 and in COPUOS, which had again appealed to all countries, particularly those with major space capabilities to contribute actively to the elimination of the arms race in outer space. Unfortunately, that appeal had not produced the desired results and the proliferation of nuclear weapons and new weapon systems might transform outer space into a field for armed conflict. That was why his delegation supported any effort to put an end to the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, and hoped that the Conference on Disarmament would enter into negotiations on that matter without delay. The results of such negotiations could provide wider prospects for peaceful development and co-operation in outer space. It was therefore the duty of COPUOS

(Mr. Radenkovic, Yugoslavia)

to follow those negotiations closely and insist that all countries should refrain from military activities in outer space so as to allow its use for purely peaceful purposes.

8. His delegation agreed that the existing gaps in international law with respect to space activities should be eliminated and on the need for the definition and delimitation of outer space and the equitable, rational use of the geostationary orbit as a limited natural resource. The Legal Sub-Committee could make a substantial contribution in that respect, even if other United Nations bodies dealt with some of those issues.

9. Despite their limited resources, the developing countries were very interested in the peaceful uses of outer space, the codification of international law governing those important questions and the furthering of international co-operation, in which the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had an important part to play.

10. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) endorsed the need to avoid saturation in outer space and was pleased to note that the United States had succeeded in withdrawing satellites which were no longer operational. It was necessary for the international community as a whole and especially for the equatorial countries, because of their geographical situation in the best zone for launching satellites, that recourse to the geostationary orbit should be declared sui generis and subject to international regulation.

11. His delegation supported the need for the working group on the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. The group's work should include a declaration of principles on the legal aspect of that orbit in order to regulate its rational, equitable use for the benefit of all mankind, taking due account of the rights and needs of the developing countries and especially the subjacent States, in the light of the role of ITU.

12. Those were the aspects which his delegation wished to see reflected in any draft resolution arising from the discussion of the item and welcomed the efforts being made to draft a text which could be the subject of consensus, especially necessary in a Committee composed of countries with very different technological capabilities but equal rights.

13. The search for the establishment of a legal order for the geostationary orbit had given rise to numerous discussions in various international and regional forums. The equatorial countries had hoped that UNISPACE 82 would lead to effective international co-operation, principally for the benefit of the developing countries. At that Conference, the equatorial countries had reaffirmed their desire to maintain outer space as a sphere for peace and co-operation and to participate actively in any international meeting which would enable them to benefit from the transfer of technology and from any space activities offered by the geostationary orbit.

(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

14. They also maintained that outer space should be duly defined and delimited, excluding the geostationary orbit, which was a phenomenon conditioned by the earth and the earth's gravity.

15. With regard to direct broadcasting satellites, Ecuador maintained the need for consultation between transmitting and receiving States, in the interests of freedom of information.

16. It was the duty of the United Nations to copy and disseminate the results of data collected by remote sensing from outer space in accordance with the mandate of ITU, as the organization responsible for placing the technical aspects of telecommunications at the service of development.

17. His delegation supported the recommendations of the last session of COPUOS for the establishment of a working group to examine as a matter of priority the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. Those subjects should be discussed by the Legal Sub-Committee. That Sub-Committee should also consider as a matter of priority the legal implications of remote sensing and continue its study of the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

18. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should study questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space as well as the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit.

19. The Group of 77 hoped that the whole world would be able to benefit from the technology resulting from medical studies in space and that national and regional data banks would be strengthened in order to speed up world-wide development. Such achievements would call for United Nations regional training centres for the new technology connected with the institutions most advanced in space programmes.

20. That obvious scientific and technical progress made it even more important to regulate the legal aspects and it was to be hoped that all States would co-operate to that end.

21. Mr. KARASIMEONOV (Bulgaria) said it was evident from the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/39/20) that little progress had been made at its last session. Owing to the unwillingness of certain States to observe such basic principles of international law as the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, no solution had been found to the problem of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing of the earth from space or of the definition and delimitation of outer space. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendation that the Legal and Scientific and Techical Sub-Committees should continue consideration of those items on a priority basis. The record of the Committee and its subsidiary organs over more than 25 years had proved their utility and effectiveness, and recent attempts to stir up artificial crises could only hinder international co-operation in a key area.

(Mr. Karasimeonov, Bulgaria)

22. His country endorsed the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and had contributed to their implementation. It had shared its modest experience in the field with several developing countries and had promoted international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In September 1984 it had hosted the third meeting of the members of the Programme on International Co-operation in the Study and Peaceful Utilization of Outer Space (INTERCOSMOS) on issues of international law relating to outer space, and would host an international seminar on questions relating to remote sensing early in 1985.

23. His delegation shared the concern of others over the militarization of outer space. The peoples of the world were aware of the danger to stability and security posed by United States plans to base weapons in outer space and to use outer space for military purposes. It was allocating astronomical resources and using the latest scientific advances to achieve military superiority there. Testing of the most modern anti-satellite weapons had begun in 1984.

24. His Government supported the concrete proposals of the Soviet Union aimed at preventing the militarization of outer space. It had, in particular, supported the draft treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the earth (A/38/194), proposed by the Soviet Union. On 18 August 1983, the Soviet Union had unilaterally assumed the obligation not to introduce anti-satellite weapons into outer space as long as other States, including the United States of America, refrained from doing so.

25. At the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Soviet Union had proposed that States should declare a universal moratorium on the testing, development and use of weapons in outer space. The States members of INTERCOSMOS had issued an appeal to the General Assembly requesting it to take effective measures to ensure that outer space would remain free of weapons and be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Preventing the militarization of outer space was one of the most urgent tasks before the international community and unless weapons were banned from outer space soon, it would be too late to do so.

26. Most delegations had shown a sense of responsibility with regard to the task entrusted by the General Assembly to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and did not believe that it had merely been requested to note the imminent danger without taking action to confront it. With the aim of seeking the elaboration of binding agreements in the field, the relevant tasks could be divided between the Conference on Disarmament and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His country, as a member of the Committee since its establishment, had participated in the elaboration of five such international agreements. The Committee did, therefore, have the potential to elaborate an international instrument to prevent the militarization of outer space.

27. Mr. MISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the joint efforts carried out by the socialist countries under the INTERCOSMOS programme since 1969 were a shining example of mutually advantageous international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Approximately 150 scientific and

(Mr. Mishchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

technological experiments and research projects, which were of great scientific and economic importance for all the countries participating in the programme, had been conducted during the international manned flights in outer space. The Ukrainian SSR had contributed to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space under the INTERCOSMOS programme and was conducting research in such fields as outer space physics, astronomy and outer space biology. Work carried out on board Soviet orbiting space stations had led to the solution of a number of technological and production-related problems. Instruments and apparatus produced in the Ukrainian SSR had been used in numerous experiments which could only be conducted in outer space.

28. The cosmonauts on board the Soviet orbiting space station who had completed in 1984 the longest manned space flight had conducted technological experiments under the conditions of weightlessness. Satellites with highly sensitive tracking apparatus had made it possible to locate valuable minerals in the most inaccessible parts of the earth. Large-scale iron and gas deposits in Siberia and the northern part of the Soviet Union had been discovered with the help of outer space geology. scientists from the Ukrainian SSR were carrying out a composite programme to develop and apply remote-sensing methods in order to study and evaluate natural resources. The Ukrainian SSR was taking an active part in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and had recently participated actively at the the thirty-fourth congress of the International Astronautical Federation in Budapest.

29. Unfortunately, there were serious obstacles to the further development of the peaceful uses of outer space. The militarization of outer space was cause for alarm. In response to that danger, at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Union had proposed the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the earth. An important advantage of such a treaty would be the combination of the political and legal obligation of States not to allow the use of force in outer space and from space with a number of far-reaching measures designed to prevent the militarization of outer space. At the current session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Union had introduced an agenda item on the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind. The proposals of the Soviet Union had received broad support. General Assembly resolution 38/70 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space requested the Conference on Disarmament to undertake negotiations for the conclusion of agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space. The United States had been the only country to vote against that resolution. General Assembly resolution 38/80 on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space had reflected the growing concern of the international community at the threat which the militarization of outer space represented for such co-operation.

30. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space must further the cause of preventing the militarization of outer space. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 constituted a sound basis for such efforts. His delegation shared the view that COPUOS should consider the question of the political and legal obligation of States to prevent the militarization of outer space in order to elaborate an additional

(Mr. Mishchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

protocol to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. Such work would help the Conference on Disarmament solve the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space.

31. Political will and a realistic attitude, however, were necessary in order to achieve that goal. The obstructionist attitude of the United States had impeded the elaboration of a treaty on the prohibition of stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space, which the Soviet Union had proposed in 1981. In 1984 the United States delegation to the Conference on Disarmament had blocked all efforts to establish an ad hoc working group which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/70, would consider the question of concluding appropriate agreements. In view of that situation, urgent measures must be taken in order to make progress in preventing the militarization of outer space and thwart attempts to turn outer space into an area of confrontation. The Soviet Union had consistently held the view that outer space must always remain an area for fruitful international co-operation.

32. In spite of the attempts to impede its activities, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had carried out significant work in 1984. His delegation categorically rejected the attacks made against COPUOS. Its future work should focus on such questions as the definition and delimitation of outer space, the regulation of remote sensing of the earth, and the use of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting. The Working Group set up in the Legal Sub-Committee to consider the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit should continue its work and concentrate on defining the limits of State jurisdiction on the basis of the principle of State sovereignty and the right of all States to freely explore and utilize outer space.

33. He shared the view that the Legal Sub-Committee would soon be able to complete its work on the elaboration of principles governing remote sensing of the earth and his delegation would support the appropriate recommendation concerning that question. The principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting set forth in General Assembly resolution 37/92 were a good basis for the elaboration of a convention on that question.

34. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic) said that in the long run the success of UNISPACE 82 would be gauged by the results achieved in the implementation of its recommendations. His delegation therefore urged those countries with a large-scale capability in the space field to commit themselves to constructive co-operation with the developing countries at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

35. The United Nations system could play a decisive role in efforts to promote the peaceful uses of outer space and in bringing about international co-operation in that field through its existing organs. Rationalization of the use of United Nations resources now allocated to outer space activities and the participation of representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could contribute to enhancing the role of the United Nations as a focal

(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab Republic)

point for international co-operation, particularly with regard to space applications in the developing countries. His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that progress had continued to be made in the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. It supported the proposed programme of activities for 1985, on the understanding that an attempt would be made to give priority to regional meetings of experts on outer space, long-term training programmes and technical advisory services.

36. Training programmes, which were largely financed from voluntary sources, were of particular importance. As long as no effective measures were taken to encourage the participation of financing institutions, and as long as donor countries did not contribute generously to such programmes, that method of financing would remain incapable of meeting the needs of the developing countries for effective assistance in the field. His delegation therefore urged the industrialized countries to provide generous voluntary assistance in order to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 37/90 and 38/80. The contributions of Member States were a precise and objective measure of the political will of those States to ensure complete follow-up and full implementation of those recommendations.

37. The question of remote sensing was highly sensitive for many countries. His delegation shared the view of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that remote sensing from outer space should be carried out with the widest possible international co-operation and participation. His delegation would like to reaffirm its interest in the recommendation of UNISPACE 82 that it was time for countries to agree on the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space and shared the concern of the Legal Sub-Committee at the lack of progress achieved in that connection. It wished to emphasize the importance of intensifying efforts to complete the draft principles in that field.

38. The process of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space had as yet had only limited tangible results. His delegation welcomed the successful efforts of the Legal Sub-Committee in reaching agreement on the procedure and format for notification in the event of the malfunctioning of a space craft with a nuclear power source on board. Work must continue on the elaboration of draft principles governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Either the amount of time allocated to the item in the Sub-Committee should be increased or the Sub-Committee should be given a clear and unequivocal mandate in that regard.

39. The regulation of the geostationary orbit was a question of the highest importance, and due account must be taken of the right of the technologically least developed among the developing countries to benefit from its use in future. The saturation of the geostationary orbit and the legal and technical complications that might result from interference in the operation of satellites as a result of their high concentration was a matter of concern to his delegation. It hoped that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would give priority consideration to study of the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit and to matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space in full co-operation with ITU.

(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab Republic)

40. There was a dangerous trend toward the use of outer space for military purposes and his delegation was particularly concerned that some States were supplying others with information to be used for purely hostile purposes. UNISPACE 82 had stressed that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only and the space activities currently taking place for military purposes were in contravention of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

41. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could make an effective contribution to the activities of the Conference on Disarmament. It was important that discussion of that subject should not be restricted to bodies in which third world countries were not adequately represented. His delegation shared the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had a legitimate interest in the question and that it was competent to deal with it. The Committee must draw up legal principles to prevent the militarization of outer space, and the Conference on Disarmament must take its view into account in its negotiations. The developing countries must be able to obtain the technology and information necessary for them to catch up with the industrialized countries in the field of outer space and, for that reason, his country was keen to profit from the space-related services provided by the United Nations system.

42. Mr. FARMER (Australia) expressed concern that COPUOS might no longer be able to continue the highly valuable work which it had carried out since its establishment. That would be extremely unfortunate for the great majority of countries which did not have space programmes of their own or which only had small space programmes. He welcomed the positive signs of a readiness on the part of delegations to adopt a resolution on the item under consideration on the basis of consensus and stressed that consensus was essential to the future work of COPUOS.

43. Attention must be focused on the scientific functions which COPUOS could usefully carry out in the years ahead. He reiterated his delegation's concern at the fact that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in recent years had become less concerned with substantial scientific and technical issues. The Sub-Committee should not undertake tasks which fell within the competence of other relevant international bodies. It could, however, encourage member countries to participate in global scientific programmes.

44. At the recent meeting of the informal working group of COPUOS, his delegation had submitted a paper on the strengthening of the scientific and technical work of that Sub-Committee in order to enhance the work of COPUOS as a whole. It was hoped that the ideas set forth in the paper could be considered in a more detailed manner at the next meeting of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

45. Mr. IBRAHIM (Iraq) said that space technology could be a powerful tool in accelerating national development by enabling developing countries to bypass obsolete technologies. Although efforts in the field had been more evident in the industrialized countries, the developing countries had long recognized the need to create the necessary structures at the national level to maximize their capacity to develop, absorb and use space technologies for the benefit of their peoples. There

(Mr. Ibrahim, Iraq)

were, however, limits to their ability to realize their full potential as long as there was no restructuring of existing international economic relations on a just and equitable basis.

46. Space technology must be considered an area for international co-operation and not confrontation. In accordance with article 1 of the 1967 Treaty on Outer Space, the exploration and use of outer space should be in the interests of all countries. The increasing use of outer space for scientific purposes demanded a fresh look at the implications of such use, including the legal implications.

47. UNISPACE 82 had done a great deal to promote awareness of the immense promise of outer space, and it was now time to take appropriate measures for its wider and fuller utilization for peaceful purposes. In doing so, there was a need to examine how the United Nations system could play a more effective role in promoting and co-ordinating international efforts to that end.

48. The extension of the arms race to outer space would be detrimental to humanity as a whole, and should therefore be prevented. The maintenance of peace and security in outer space was a prerequisite for international co-operation in its exploration and use. If the developed countries did not devote the knowledge they acquired to purely peaceful purposes, the world would face a new crisis while still attempting to solve that of the present arms race and build-up of nuclear weapons.

49. Because of the lack of political will on the part of some of its members, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not completed the tasks entrusted to it at its last session. The working methods of its two Sub-Committees, particularly the Legal Sub-Committee, had highlighted the constant deterioration in the negotiations on the formulation of legal principles governing the peaceful uses of outer space. Although his delegation did not deny the rights of States to defend their interests, the fact that certain privileges had been reserved for some members of COPUOS did not serve the objectives for which the Committee had been established. It had not been possible to achieve a minimum standard of flexibility in settling matters that had been pending for many years. That situation was naturally unpleasant and unsatisfactory for all, and the progress made in the legal field had not kept pace with other developments.

50. The Legal Sub-Committee had not, unfortunately, been able to complete its formulation of the principles governing the remote sensing of the earth from space, taking account of the various points of view. The dissemination of data relating to the territory of a State or areas under its jurisdiction should be subject to its prior consent and should be effected with due respect for its sovereignty over its natural resources, as recognized by international law. The sensed State should also have free access, on reasonable terms, to the analysed information resulting from such primary data. Every State conducting remote-sensing activities should, in addition, be held internationally responsible for the dissemination of any primary data or analysed information that adversely affected the interests of a sensed State.

51. His delegation supported the idea of formulating principles governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the drafting of a standard format for notification of the Secretary-General eliciting the greatest possible amount of

(Mr. Ibrahim, Iraq)

information on space craft using such sources. It also supported the view that, in the case of a space craft with a nuclear power source on board falling to earth, clean-up operations should be carried out by national teams to be trained, in part, by the United Nations. The number of space craft carrying nuclear power sources should be restricted to the necessary minimum. In addition to the earliest possible notification of a malfunction, notification should also be issued when re-entry was anticipated. There should be several levels of alert corresponding to different risks of re-entry. The launching State should provide frequently updated information concerning the predicted time and place of re-entry, perhaps on a daily basis during the last week and more frequently as re-entry approached. In view of the high probability of the re-entry of a radio-isotopic generator intact, it would be useful, when technically feasible, for a State launching such an energy source to label the source in such a way as to warn any person casually approaching the generator after impact. His delegation was of the view that the pre-planning of emergency procedures in case of the unplanned re-entry of nuclear power sources was required by the relevant regulations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection. The feasibility of establishing national or regional emergency teams should be considered after detailed study. One way of limiting radiological hazards would be to establish quantitative limitations on the energy output of nuclear power sources on board space craft. There was a need for more information on such nuclear power sources so that national authorities could assess the need for monitoring and the preparation of protective measures, should a malfunction occur.

52. The definition and the limitation of outer space was a necessary and urgent question and should continue to be considered on a priority basis, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/80. The geostationary orbit, recognized as a limited resource by UNISPACE 82 and by the ITU Convention, should be used by all countries, and especially by the developing countries, for the benefit of all mankind. ITU required that all countries should have access to the geostationary orbit to establish satellite services, and the United Nations should co-operate with ITU to establish appropriate principles with respect to its use. His delegation hoped that the World Administrative Radio Conference on the use of the geostationary satellite orbit and the planning of space services utilizing it, to be held in 1985, would reach agreement on new procedures. UNISPACE 82 had been a historic achievement in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The non-implementation of the recommendations it had unanimously adopted would, however, render that Conference meaningless.

53. Miss SAIGA (Japan) said that her country had successfully launched its ninth scientific satellite in February 1984 and was planning to launch others in 1985 and 1987. It had also launched broadcasting satellites and a geostationary meteorological satellite and planned to launch others. Her Government also continued to promote multilateral and bilateral co-operation on the peaceful uses of outer space.

54. She endorsed the emphasis placed on the need for a consensus in the work of COPUOS and welcomed the current efforts to ensure that the draft resolution to be adopted by the Special Political Committee at the current session was acceptable to all.

(Miss Saiga, Japan)

55. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that the three studies recommended in General Assembly resolution 38/80, on remote sensing, direct broadcasting by satellites and the geostationary orbit had been successfully completed and looked forward to their submission to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. It also welcomed the agreement to reconvene the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space during the next session of that Sub-Committee. In response to the Secretary-General's invitation, Japan would submit its views and suggestions regarding radiological risks for consideration by that Working Group.

56. It regretted, however, that little progress had been made by the Legal Sub-Committee and hoped that at its next session it would have constructive discussions aimed at drafting internationally acceptable safety regulations. When drafting the principles on remote sensing, it was important not to impede the development of activities and international co-operation in that field.

57. The extension of an arms race into outer space was a matter of grave concern to all. Her delegation therefore welcomed the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to begin new arms control and disarmament negotiations and hoped that they would have fruitful discussions on outer space weapons. As indicated in the resolution recently adopted by the First Committee (A/C.1/39/L.37/Rev.2), the prevention of an arms race in outer space was to be entrusted to the Conference on Disarmament. Her delegation hoped that that Conference would establish an ad hoc committee and begin substantive discussion of that subject without delay.

58. The Japanese delegation welcomed the specific proposals concerning the working methods of COPUOS submitted by Australia and the Netherlands and was pleased to note that that Committee had decided that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should consider possible ways of further promoting international co-operation in space science and applications. However, her Government was concerned at the way the work of COPUOS had been evolving and believed that it would be useful to bear in mind its original mandate when considering its future work.

59. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that rapid advances had been made in practically every scientific discipline as a result of space technology. Although UNISPACE 82 had emphasized the importance of international co-operation in outer space activities, unless a concerted effort was made to assist the developing countries, the gap would continue to widen between them and the space Powers and other technologically advanced countries.

60. Uganda had benefited from the Programme on Space Applications administered by the Outer Space Affairs Division because a number of its experts had been sponsored for training. However, most of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 had yet to be fulfilled due to lack of sufficient resources. His delegation therefore, called on all those in a position to do so to contribute generously to that Programme.

61. The important role of remote sensing in planning and development was generally recognized, but access to data obtained on developing countries was becoming

(Mr. Irumba, Uganda)

increasingly costly and dependent on the goodwill of the countries possessing it. Uganda was disappointed that COPUOS had so far been unable to finalize the draft principles on remote sensing. The rights of access of a sensed State to data and the need for it to give its prior consent before dissemination to a third party were unchallengeable.

62. The question of the geostationary orbit was very important to his delegation. It was a limited natural resource and was in danger of being saturated by the technologically advanced countries, even though the developing countries might eventually acquire the capacity to launch their own satellites. There was therefore need for a special régime that would ensure the equitable use of the orbit.

63. Uganda was a signatory of the Bogota declaration issued by the meeting of equatorial countries which had discussed the geostationary orbit and its legal status. It was also party to the statement of equatorial countries issued in Quito in June 1982. Those two declarations contained essential rules which could form the basis of an international consensus. The need for juridical regulation and technical planning of that orbit to take into account the needs of developing countries and the special interests of subjacent States had been recognized by UNISPACE 82. The related question of the definition and delimitation of outer space was necessary because of the different legal régimes governing airspace and outer space as well as for the full exercise of sovereignty.

64. Uganda had always maintained that outer space was a collective environment and that its use and exploration should be for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind. It was therefore disturbed at the increasing militarization of outer space. It was regrettable that the space Powers had so far not discussed that matter but it was encouraging that both had recently indicated their willingness to do so.

65. The cessation of an arms race in outer space was necessary for the development of international co-operation. It was therefore regrettable that procedural objections had been used to prevent COPUOS from discussing the substance of the matter constructively as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 38/80. The fact that the issue was discussed in the Conference on Disarmament in no way precluded its discussion in COPUOS, which could supplement the former's efforts. The procedural objections on competence of organs reflected a lack of political will to tackle the real issue endangering all mankind.

66. Uganda believed that activities concerning direct broadcasting satellites should be aimed at strengthening friendly relations and co-operation among States and should benefit both the sponsors and the recipients of the broadcasts. There was a need for a convention which safeguarded sovereignty, the right of people to choose their way of life and the balanced flow of information.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.