



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
20 November 2013

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 13th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 23 October 2013, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. García González (El Salvador)

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13-52793 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 50: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/68/20)

1. **Mr. Mohammed** (Nigeria) said that the expansion of activities in outer space required further regulation. His Government welcomed the European Union initiative for an international code of conduct for outer space activities based on free use of outer space, the protection of space objects in orbit and consideration of the security and defence needs of Member States.

2. It was imperative for spacefaring nations to broaden their cooperation in the field with emerging space nations. Thus the commitment of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to build the capacity of developing countries in the use and application of global navigation satellite systems was commendable. Nigeria itself had initiated the organization of biennial regional conferences on space, science and technology for sustainable development, which had allowed African countries to share experiences, and complemented United Nations efforts to develop national capacities.

3. Nigeria was also working with universities in Canada, Europe, the United States and elsewhere to develop key niche-space technologies and obtain greater access to up-to-date space data and infrastructures. It had established a centre for atmospheric research in collaboration with a Japanese university that allowed it to monitor space weather and capture data for global use. It had, further, established a regional support office for the United Nations Platform of Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and organized workshops to raise awareness of the field. Together with Algeria, Kenya, and South Africa, Nigeria was operating the African Resource Management Satellite Constellation, giving them access to data on disaster management, food security, public health, land use, water resource management and climate change surveillance. His nation had, moreover, launched its own two satellites — Nigeriasat-2 and Nigeriasat-x — to provide global data for both commercial and national projects, including disaster monitoring and mitigation.

4. **Mr. Hodgkins** (United States of America), noting that the world's growing dependence on space

capabilities had made their responsible use all the more essential, said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) had been extremely successful in its unique task of focusing on the cooperative achievement — and sharing — of benefits from space exploration and use by all nations. His Government's own national space policy was emphasizing international cooperation in a wide range of areas, from space debris problems to best practices in the sustainable use of space, and it promoted transparency and confidence-building to mitigate the risk of misperceptions and mishaps.

5. 2013 marked significant milestones: the fortieth anniversary of the launch of SKYLAB, the first United States space station, which had led to the development of the International Space Station, itself now shaping a new set of missions; and the fiftieth anniversary of the first woman in space.

6. The work done by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS on the long-term sustainability of space activities, deservedly recognized in other forums, was creating new opportunities for peaceful collaboration across the United Nations system. Progress had also been made in expanding the global network for detection and characterization of near-Earth objects and in developing a space-mission-planning advisory group to deal with threats they posed.

7. The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, as part of its distinguished history of developing space law in a manner that promoted space exploration and consequent global economic growth, had concluded its work on a revised draft set of recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, and had made satisfactory progress in its important new plan to review international mechanisms for cooperation in the field.

8. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said that, as a founding member of COPUOS, Argentina was devoted to the rational, peaceful use of outer space for the collective benefit of current and future generations, which demanded universal access to space data and space technology applications. The developing countries needed applications with economic, social and environmental benefits, sustained by international cooperation.

9. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, which Argentina was proud to have chaired

during its last session, had identified three main activities that would reduce the threat of near-Earth objects: the detection and monitoring of dangerous asteroids and comets under the direction of the United States, Russian and European space agencies with the collaboration of other national agencies like that of Argentina; the planning of mitigation campaigns involving object deflection and civil protection; and the organization of mitigation campaigns by the most appropriate agencies. The Subcommittee has also made a series of recommendations for an emergency international response to dangerous objects before they entered the atmosphere, and also for the use of space data in support of sustainable development.

10. Argentina's own space activities included the recent inauguration of a national satellite testing centre, and the operation since 2011, in cooperation primarily with the United States space agency, of its own SAC-D/Aquarius satellite, whose main objective was to measure ocean salinity and other marine and terrestrial phenomena. His Government was also working, in cooperation with the Italian space agency, on launching by 2015 a constellation of two successive Earth-observation satellites, SAOCOM 1 and 2, intended chiefly to detect and monitor water-related emergencies worldwide.

11. International cooperation should aim to develop space science and technology and their applications, to help build appropriate space capability in interested States, and to facilitate the exchange of information and transfer of technology among States on a mutually acceptable basis. The regional support office for UN-SPIDER had been established in Buenos Aires, and it would promote national capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean, providing cooperation in emergencies together with training in disaster management and use of satellite technologies.

12. **Mr. Pande** (India), outlining his nation's space achievements in the past year, said that its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle had successfully placed in polar orbit the SARAL satellite, a joint Indian/French altimetry mission that would collect weather data, as well as six other satellites belonging to several European countries. Subsequently, the first of the seven-satellite constellation of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, IRNSS-1A, had been launched into orbit, where it would provide position, navigation and timing services over the Indian region. India's weather satellite, INSAT-3D, had been

successfully launched from French Guyana, as had India's advanced communication satellite, GSAT-7. India's space agency would the following month launch a Mars orbiter mission, the first step towards exploring the planet. It would also be launching the nation's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, carrying the GSAT-14 satellite; as well as ASTROSAT, the first Indian space-based observatory for multiwavelength observations of the celestial bodies and cosmic sources.

13. India had cooperation agreements with 33 countries and 3 international organizations, under which, for example, it was providing wind-vector data globally from its OCEANSAT-2 under an arrangement with EUMESTAT, offering satellite data for a variety of applications like disaster management or storm prediction in the Asia-Pacific region, and helping to build space science and technology capacity in developing countries there.

14. **Mr. Al-Kurwi** (Iraq) said that as part of its national strategy to use space science and technology to promote sustainable development, his Government had surveyed over 300 government departments concerned and determined that it would focus on six areas of development, namely, natural resource management, land and property management, infrastructure, public services, planning, and the teaching of outer space science and technology in higher education.

15. Iraq had readied an emergency disaster management plan on the basis of a study relying on advanced radar imagery to identify possible flooding in the case of a major dam collapse. It had also developed an early warning system for natural disasters and was currently establishing a website to inform the public about disaster response.

16. Given the significance of sandstorms in the entire Middle East — accounting for economic losses in the billions and serious health concerns — Iraq would be participating in a three-year project starting in 2014, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in conjunction with other United Nations agencies and international drought experts, to combat sandstorms and dust storms in all the States in the region. Sophisticated observation systems would be made available, such as imaging spectrometers, Geographic Information System (GIS) software,

advanced remote sensing and computer-based meteorological forecasting.

17. His Government was managing water resources through irrigation projects involving the expanded use of satellite imagery and other sophisticated software and digital mapping to identify water sources and determine the quota of water needed for the country's agriculture and animal husbandry. Also, Iraq had conducted geological surveys and scores of studies that were expected to produce about 40 maps in the next four years, using land-use and land-cover satellite data.

18. With the assistance of the University of Rome and the Italian space agency, about 50 Iraqi students were being trained in small-satellite technology. As a result, Iraq planned to launch its first TigriSat by the end of the year, equipped with an observation camera to monitor sandstorms. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs as well had been enormously helpful to Iraq, as to other developing countries, in building space science and technology capabilities in the service of national objectives.

19. **Mr. Shang Zhen** (China), observing that his Government advocated a peaceful and inclusive use of outer space based on equality, mutual benefit and the rule of law, said that as part of its active efforts to expand international cooperation in the field, China had in September in Beijing hosted the sixty-fourth International Astronautical Congress, bringing together space experts, academics and government officials from all over the world, as well as the United Nations Human Space Technology Initiative workshop. Later in October, the UN-SPIDER International Conference on Disaster Risk Identification, Assessment and Monitoring would also be held in Beijing. China was currently working with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to establish a United Nations Asia-Pacific regional centre for space science and technology education at the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

20. On the fiftieth anniversary of the first space flight by a female astronaut, China hoped to see other women achieve that dream. Its own second female astronaut had recently flown into space aboard the Shenzhou 10 spacecraft and interacted directly from space with over 60 million primary and secondary schools pupils in China. His Government had thus far signed cooperation agreements with more than 10 countries in such areas as satellite navigation, surveying and

monitoring. Its own Beidou Satellite Navigation System had begun to provide regular navigation service to the Asia-Pacific region. As a spacefaring nation, China would actively promote the exploitation of space in the service of the economic development and social progress of all countries, and it would work tirelessly for an outer space of peace, harmony and the rule of law.

21. **Mr. Lazarev** (Belarus) said that his nation, a party to the first four of the United Nations treaties on outer space, had substantial capabilities in advanced space science and technology. It had developed flight simulation platforms and equipment for cosmodromes and spacecraft, some of which had been used in the International Space Station. The main work in the field was being done in Belarus, under the national space programme, by more than 20 research and production institutions, which were expanding the range of the aerospace hardware being developed. The most significant had been the creation of the Belarus outer space system for global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), including a terrestrial guidance system and a spacecraft that rivalled the best in the world. The national space programme for 2013-2017, which provided for the launch of new satellites, would focus on space applications for environmental protection, rational land use, disaster management, national security and development of international cooperation in the field. Belarus planned to create a national satellite communications system, broadcasting from its geostationary satellite, and to create, with Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine, a single navigational meteorological system. His Government was also developing an educational curriculum in outer space science and technology from secondary school to university, including a very specialized centre for aerospace education.

22. His country would be hosting a forthcoming COPUOS-sponsored conference on applications of outer space technology to economic and social development. Belarus had applied to join COPUOS and looked forward to approval of its membership at the current session of the General Assembly. It would be an active member, working especially on issues of development and harmonization of national legislation.

23. **Ms. Martina** (Ukraine) said that it was time for COPUOS to assess the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of

Outer Space (UNISPACE III) relating to the use of space-based systems in such areas as agriculture and land use, water resources and disaster management; and it should also discuss the possibility of holding the next Conference. Member States should improve international coordination of disaster management and emergency response by facilitating global access to space-based services, capacity-building and institutional strengthening. UN-SPIDER should be given the resources it needed to continue its good work in the field.

24. Under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2013, endorsed by COPUOS, there should be more of a focus on climate change. The issue of space debris as well was of concern to all nations, because it threatened access to outer space and its use in both the short and the long terms. Those States already implementing national space debris mitigation measures were to be commended. The European Union initiative for a non-binding international code of conduct for space debris mitigation would be a useful complement to the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS and to outer space law. A new, single and comprehensive convention on space law would further strengthen the existing international legal regime governing space activities. The sharing of information on national space legislation could help identify common principles and procedures on which consensus could be built as the drafting progressed.

25. Member States should cooperate more on the use of remote sensing satellites, especially by sharing experiences and technologies and embracing the concept of data democracy. Ukraine was encouraged by the progress the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) had made in achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and promoting their integration into national infrastructures. At the same time, exploitation of the geostationary orbit should be rationalized and made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capabilities.

26. **Mr. Ishikawa** (Japan) said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space offered a unique platform for global exchange of views and information in the field and for seeking common ground on a range of different issues, including the preservation of the space environment. The intensive discussions in that Committee on the long-term sustainability of outer

space activities, for instance, would consolidate the foundation of global governance of space activities and their application to further sustainable development. COPUOS could also help the international community to contribute effectively to the discussion of the post-2015 development agenda.

27. In the Asia-Pacific region, a key role in returning the benefits of space technologies to the societies of the region had been played by the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum. As to Japan's own recent space activities, its Kounotori 4 transfer vehicle had re-entered the atmosphere after a 36-day mission to the International Space Station in September. In that same month, the maiden flight of the Epsilon-1 rocket had launched the SPRINT-A probe, a spectroscopic planet observatory for recognition of interaction of atmosphere; and in November a Japanese astronaut would begin his long-term stay on the International Space Station as expedition commander. Future plans included the launching of the advanced land observing satellite, the ALOS-2, and the Global Precipitation Measurement Core Observatory and Asteroid Explorer, the Hayabusa-2, a joint United States/Japan mission.

28. **Mr. Mangisi** (Tonga), emphasizing the aspects of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications relating to environmental monitoring, natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and climate change, said that space technologies should be used to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially by promoting sustainable development and mitigating the effects of climate change. Developing countries would particularly benefit from stronger communications infrastructures and disaster management applications of outer space technology. The post-2015 development agenda was of utmost importance to small island developing States like Tonga. They had called for the inclusion of climate change and ocean governance as cross-cutting issues in sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, which, as it was being shaped, should take into account the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be convened in Samoa in 2014. Tonga looked forward with great interest to the announcement in 2014 of the outcome of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

29. Tonga, being highly susceptible to the impact of climate change and natural disasters, knew that satellite operations and space-derived data were indispensable

tools in tracking climate change and understanding its effects, and that technology such as GIS improved weather predictions and meteorological information, making it possible to take preventive action. Open access to reliable space-based observation data would enable all States to adapt to the changing environment and reduce the harmful impact of climate change on the environment and on people. Global efforts focused on capacity-building and institutional strengthening would also ensure effective responses to natural disasters. What was being done in the field by UN-SPIDER was most valuable, particularly to the developing countries. Tonga had been helped by that programme to expand its national data sharing, vulnerability mapping and institutional strengthening, and looked forward to a long-term association with it. Successful adaptation to climate change would require the full cooperation of the global community and unrestricted sharing of information and capabilities.

30. **Ms. Archinard** (Switzerland) said that outer space technology and its applications had become indispensable to sustainable development and rational management of natural resources, and had rightly been given the recognition due them in both the Rio+20 Declaration in 2012 and in the post-2015 development agenda. Modern societies had come to rely heavily on space-based systems also in fields such as transport, telecommunications and security. At the same time, however, space had become very crowded, increasing the risk of potentially disastrous accidents. A number of countries, including her own, were working on developing effective and inexpensive technologies to deal with space debris, though without success thus far.

31. The expert groups established in 2010 under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities would be reporting on their conclusions in 2014 to the Subcommittee, which would establish useful, if non-binding, guidelines on systematic exchange of information and more responsible conduct in space. In the interest of safeguarding outer space for peaceful uses, there had also been very interesting discussions in the First Committee regarding, inter alia, confidence-building and transparency in outer space activities. Another interesting proposal had been that of the European Union for an international code of conduct for outer space activities which, though voluntary, would be a political declaration of good conduct in space. Switzerland was following the

process closely and would participate in the second round of negotiations.

32. The Committee would also be considering a draft resolution containing very useful recommendations for the establishment of national legislation relating to the exploration and use of outer space, emphasizing in particular the need for consistency with the international legal framework and for supervision of the space activities of non-governmental stakeholders.

33. **Mr. Sahraei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that an arms race in outer space, the province of all humanity, would constitute a major threat. Outer space must be used solely for the well-being of all nations. The long-term sustainability of outer space activities was crucial. They must be regulated in good faith and with transparency, relying on regional and international cooperation rather than arbitrary approaches, which might limit access to space for developing States with emerging space capabilities. Any code of conduct for outer space activities should be developed within the legal framework of the United Nations with full participation by all Member States, and must be acceptable to all.

34. The utilization of the geostationary orbit, a limited resource, must be rationalized and extended to all States equally, taking into account geographical location, in accordance with the established principles of the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant United Nations bodies, and giving priority to the contribution that space activities could make to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, his country, itself prone to various types of natural disasters, appreciated the considerable merit of UN-SPIDER activities and the Iranian regional support office was an active partner in its work.

35. His Government had made remarkable advances in space science and technology relying on its own capability and indigenous knowledge. It had been actively involved in peaceful uses of outer space with the launch of three satellites, capped by the sending of the first live animal into suborbit. It was determined to accelerate the expansion of its own research and technological capability and to promote peaceful international cooperation in the field.

36. **Ms. Gankhurai** (Mongolia) said that, as the number of spacefaring nations increased, there must be more effective regional and international cooperation

to ensure that the benefits of space science and technology were used to achieve the sustainable development goals of all countries. The interesting events marking the fiftieth anniversary of the first space flight by a woman had highlighted the contribution women had made to space activities.

37. Dealing with the issue of space debris had become a key to ensuring space security, and it was gratifying that some States were already taking steps in line with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS, although more regional and international exchange of information and experience and further consideration of the question in the Subcommittees of COPUOS would be needed to ensure security.

38. Mongolia had established its first space communication station in 1970, and in 1981 the first Mongolian astronaut had accomplished a space mission under the Interkosmos cooperation programme, conducting experiments prepared by Mongolian scientists. Over the years her nation had accumulated a certain amount of knowledge and experience in using space-based technologies. In 2012, the Government had established a national satellite programme, which when operational would greatly advance the country's development. Its agencies were involved in international cooperation within regional organizations like the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and Mongolia would take advantage of the Beijing regional centre for space science and technology education once it was set up.

39. **Mr. Kim Yong Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that recently the United Nations had associated outer space activities with its work to implement the Millennium Development Goals and the goals established by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, thus ensuring that space science and technology would be applied to building the capacity of the developing countries in particular. The Democratic People's Republic had since the 1980s devoted itself to developing the peaceful uses of outer space, and after years of research had accomplished the goal of launching domestically made satellites on several occasions, most recently in December 2012 with the launch of the second version of the Kwangmyongsong-3 Earth-observation satellite, which was collecting data on the distribution of forest resources, natural disasters, crop estimates, weather events and exploration of natural resources.

40. Legislation on the development of outer space had recently been adopted and a national space agency founded. His Government's space activity was an inviolable right of a sovereign State, as recognized by international law. However, forces hostile to the Democratic People's Republic were unjustifiably asserting that it alone could not launch a satellite even for peaceful purposes while other nations could. The misrepresentation of the December 2012 satellite launch as military in nature had been the pretext for applying sanctions and political pressure. Countries like the United States tolerated the launching by countries friendly to them of any kind of satellite or intercontinental ballistic missile, but did not acknowledge that countries to which they were hostile could conduct even a peaceful launch. His delegation therefore totally rejected the various Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions at the behest of the United States on the occasion of its peaceful satellite launch. It firmly intended to continue in the future launching practical satellites for the development of the national economy and the improvement of its people's well-being, observing in a transparent manner all the relevant legal procedures required by international treaties.

41. **Mr. Coulibaly** (Burkina Faso), noting that the commemoration of the first space flight by a woman underlined the human feats being performed in space, said that his Government sought to benefit from space technologies in order to further its development. With that in mind, it had established a modern network of Global Navigation Satellite System/Continuously Operating Reference Stations under a United States-financed basic security project. The network comprised nine interconnected stations in different cities which collected and processed web-based data. The Government had also adopted a national policy on geographical information management calling for the creation of national space data infrastructure to transmit information on sustainable development in all sectors of national life. In 2012, a seminar on geospatial information had been organized with the help of Japan and attended by nine countries of the subregion; the problems of cartography in West Africa and the possibility of regional cooperation had been discussed. Japan was also helping the country's Geographical Institute to improve its mapping techniques with a view to planning mineral resource development, livestock raising and natural resource protection.

42. Much remained to be done, however, to give the developing countries greater access to space science and technology. The gap between developed and developing countries could be bridged only by regional and interregional cooperation in outer space activities. Such cooperation was also the approach that had to be taken to the delimitation of space and the adoption of an international legal instrument that would strengthen the existing space treaties. Space science and technology, as highlighted at the Rio+20 Conference, had an important role to play in the promotion of sustainable development. They were also central to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda at the United Nations. As more and more actors, both State and private, became engaged in a greater variety of space activities, the preservation of that common heritage of humanity could be compromised if the principle of the peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of all was not safeguarded.

43. **Mr. Borje** (Philippines) said that space science and its applications offered a fascinating frontier expanding with each new scientific discovery and responding to the imperatives of developments on the ground. Outer space had to be used peacefully and in a sustainable manner, and must not become the domain of an exclusive few. COPUOS, encouraging collaborative process and consensus-building, was poised to play an increasingly large role in the field of global security as it considered the use of space systems for the management of disasters and cosmic threats. Yet the issue of security in space required that Committee to enhance its cooperation with other bodies and mechanisms within the United Nations system, including the First Committee, the Sixth Committee and the Conference on Disarmament.

44. Accurate and timely space-based data was vital in disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Capacity-building would be key in helping developing countries access and utilize such data, thus transforming them into active participants who could themselves provide valuable data to the information loop from which all could benefit.

45. The current legal regime was inadequate to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space and to address issues related to the space environment. The governing principle was that activities in outer space — as on Earth — should be rules-based. Binding norms had to be developed, and a possible international code of conduct for outer space activities deserved attention.

For the discussions on a code of conduct to gain traction, process and venue were as important as the principles involved. The discussions had to take place in the appropriate forum, such as the United Nations. Space science must always be in step with the law and must not be allowed to outpace it. It would be valuable therefore to have a greater interaction between the two COPUOS subcommittees and between COPUOS and the Fourth Committee.

46. **Mr. Msosa** (Malawi) said that the natural disasters that had recently struck in various parts of the world had caused a huge loss of life and property that could have been reduced with better prevention and better information, using space technology for risk assessment, early warning and monitoring.

47. Malawi's economy was largely dependent on agriculture, and satellite data could help greatly in monitoring natural phenomena. It had therefore invited UN-SPIDER to conduct a technical advisory mission, which had met with key national and international institutions and organizations in the country to discuss how Malawi could use space-based information and technology in areas such as disaster risk management, land-use planning for disaster prevention and soil moisture assessments, and to assess its need for information sharing and access to regional spatial data infrastructures and international emergency response mechanisms. That type of cooperation — also in the fields of telecommunication, health and environmental protection, could be of enormous assistance to his country.

48. Malawi feared the prospect of an arms race in space. It was crucial to make every effort to preserve outer space for peaceful uses only — through transparent activities, information sharing and observance of international space law — so that future generations would not blame the international community for leaving them with a pitiful legacy.

49. **Ms. Sánchez Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the legal regime governing outer space was insufficient and must be expanded to prevent the militarization of space. The Conference on Disarmament should take the lead, in a constructive dialogue with COPUOS, in urgently negotiating a multilateral agreement. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee must work more intensively on the definition and delimitation of outer space and on developing international space law to preserve outer space for exclusively peaceful

purposes, considering its growing commercialization and the increasing involvement of transnational and private companies. Defining outer space would guarantee the safety, security and transparency of space activities.

50. COPUOS must defend the principle of access to outer space on an equal footing. All States irrespective of their level of scientific or economic development had that right. The geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource at risk of becoming saturated, and its exploitation should be rationalized and made available to all States under equitable conditions, taking into account in particular the needs of developing countries. On the question of remote sensing by satellite, Cuba condemned the extensive network of spy satellites created with a view to obtaining information detrimental to other nations.

51. Despite its economic difficulties owing to a cruel economic, trade and financial blockade imposed on it, Cuba was increasingly expanding its research and space applications for peaceful uses, especially in the field of meteorology, where it had been able to forecast weather, avert hurricane damage and detect forest fires, allowing it to reduce the loss of life in combination with preventive evacuations.

52. Although universal access to outer space was a recognized principle, not all States could acquire independent space capabilities, either technologically or financially, in the foreseeable future. Thus, as more States participated in outer space activities, bilateral and multilateral cooperation became more urgent. The applications of space science and technology were indispensable tools for advancing sustainable development. It was the duty of the United Nations and of COPUOS in particular to promote sharing of technology and data, especially with the developing countries, and the application of space technologies in areas such as food security, water resources, natural resource management, disaster management and mitigation.

53. COPUOS should strengthen its ties with the Commission on Sustainable Development. Climate change and food security should remain topics of discussion in that Committee, and it should raise public awareness about the potential of space technologies in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

54. **Mr. Jong Won** (Republic of Korea) said that the groundless remarks of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding its missile launch on 12 December 2012 did not obscure the fact that repeated Security Council resolutions had demanded that its Government refrain from any launch involving ballistic missile technology, and that a Security Council presidential statement of April 2012 had recalled that launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, even if characterized as a satellite launch or space launch vehicle, were serious violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions. In view of that nation's track record of repeated nuclear tests and missile launches, it had no justification for asserting a peaceful use of outer space. Its arguments, moreover, demonstrated that it had no intention to abide by international norms. Its so-called register of objects launched into outer space was merely a technical procedure that conferred no legitimacy on its launch of December the previous year. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must immediately suspend all activities relating to ballistic missile programmes.

55. **Mr. Kim Yong Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his nation's scientific and technical satellite, fitted with survey and communication devices needed for Earth observation, and launched in keeping with all required international procedures, was currently in orbit transmitting useful data regarding crops, weather and the like. The United States and its followers continued to talk about the use of ballistic missile technology, but it was that very technology that they had used to launch their own satellites. Where was it written in any of the outer space treaties that only specific countries could have access to outer space with updated technology? That would clearly be a double standard. Outer space was not the monopoly of some States, but was the common heritage of all mankind. Consequently, all States with the capacity to do so had the sovereign, undeniable right to use advanced technology in the peaceful use of outer space.

56. **Mr. Jong Won** (Republic of Korea) reiterated that the relevant Security Council resolutions clearly demanded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should not conduct any launches using ballistic missile technology. Moreover, Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations stipulated that all Member States should accept and carry out Security Council decisions,

and Article 4 of the Charter limited membership in the United Nations to peace-loving States that carried out their Charter obligations. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea could not accept the one and reject the other.

57. **Mr. Kim Yong Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that he would simply restate his Government's clear position: it totally rejected all Security Council sanctions resolutions concocted by the United States regarding its peaceful satellite launch. It had the firm intention to continue in the future to launch satellites peacefully for the development of its national economy and the improvement of its people's lives, and would do so transparently by observing all procedures required by international treaties.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.