United Nations A/C.4/69/SR.10

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
4 December 2014

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 10th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 17 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Bhattarai. . . . . (Nepal)

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14-62884 (E)

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

Agenda item 49: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/69/20; A/C.4/69/L.2)

1. **Mr. Lasso Mendoza** (Ecuador) said that his delegation recognized the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) as the only international forum for the development of space law and supported its endeavour to promote international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and ensure equal access to its benefits. His Government considered it a priority to guarantee equitable access to the geostationary orbit , and believed that COPUOS should consider drafting regulations to that end, and possibly even an international regime that would take into account the needs and interests of the developing countries as well as the geographical location of certain countries.

2. It was important to promote the use of space technologies to advance sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, given the potential impact on people's lives. The International Conference on Integrated Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in the Mountain Regions of Andean Countries, organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and Ecuador, to be held in Quito in November 2014, would address the role of space technology in such fields as agriculture, health and climate change.

3. The recommendations of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), particularly in relation to climate change and natural disasters, should be given more weight, and there should be greater support for the effective work being done by the United Nations Platform of Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). Ecuador was particularly vulnerable to the destruction caused by natural disasters, including periodic severe flooding. In order to protect domestic food security, the Ecuadorian Space Institute had launched three projects using space technology to monitor the impact of climate change on certain crops using crop-forecasting models; prevent and mitigate severe flooding using risk reduction techniques; and generate nationally applicable geophysical information. Furthermore, a nanosatellite, KRYSAOR, built entirely in Ecuador by the Ecuadorian Civilian Space Agency, had been launched in November 2013 from a base in the Russian Federation — the second such Ecuadorian initiative.

4. It was essential to prevent a perilous arms race in outer space by complying with existing international norms on the uses of outer space in conjunction with universally accepted principles like the prohibition of the threat or use of force. Very relevant and useful in that connection was the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects submitted to the Conference on Disarmament by China and the Russian Federation.

5. **Mr. Prasad** (India), acknowledging the unique work of COPUOS and its Subcommittees, and reviewing his country's space achievements of the previous year, said that India had successfully placed its first interplanetary probe, the Mars Orbiter Mission, into the Martian orbit in September 2014. Facilities in a number of countries had cooperated in various phases of the mission, launched in November 2013. In addition, the Indian Cryogenic Upper Stage had been successfully tested in January 2014, when a communications satellite, GSAT-14, had been placed into orbit. In April 2014, the second of seven satellites in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) constellation — the IRNSS-1B — had been placed into its intended orbit to provide positioning, navigation and timing services. In June 2014, India had successfully placed into orbit the French Earth-observation satellite SPOT-7 and four piggyback satellites from Germany, Canada and Singapore. Work was under way on the ASTROSAT satellite, the first Indian space-based observatory for multiple wavelength observations of celestial bodies and cosmic sources.

6. The Indian space programme integrated advances in space technology into national development goals, and cooperation agreements were in place with 34 countries and three international organizations. Under the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), it was proposed to establish a ground station to receive and process data from Indian satellites for applications by all member States, including disaster management support. A network of weather stations was also being set up in the South Asian region to predict severe thunderstorms. India participated in various mechanisms for international disaster management, including the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for

Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). As a member of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT), India provided search-and-rescue operations for its own territory and for seven neighbouring countries.

7. In 2014, India had participated in an international meeting on meteorological satellites and had hosted international meetings on capacity-building and data democracy, and on altimetry. India continued to support developing countries in the application of space technology by offering expertise in capacity-building; students from 53 countries had been trained at the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, affiliated to the United Nations and operating from India.

8. **Mr. Munir** (Pakistan), commending the work of COPUOS and the comprehensive overview it had provided in the report on its fifty-seventh session (A/69/20), said that as drivers of socioeconomic growth in Pakistan, space activities and technologies had applications in areas including climate change, resource monitoring and management, disaster management, health and education. Pakistan benefited from international cooperation in fields such as satellite-based monitoring of crops and the automation of data collection using smart-phone applications. It had conducted projects on the impact of flooding and flood management in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the University of Southampton, while work on mapping the spread of dengue and polio had been undertaken with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

9. Pakistan itself had introduced a space education programme for industry professionals and government officials, while a national satellite programme prepared university students for the space industry. In November 2013, students at the Institute of Space Technology had launched a cube satellite that would carry out experiments ranging from imaging to nanotechnology to space dynamics and physics.

10. The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had produced good results at the previous session; and the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, reflecting the interest of States in greater safety and security in outer space, should be implemented. Pakistan had participated actively in the consultations on the draft international code of conduct for outer space activities and considered that the initiative should be pursued, preferably under the aegis of the United Nations, in an inclusive, universal and participatory manner, taking into account the security interests of all States.

11. Outer space should be used in a manner that guaranteed its safety, security and sustainability, and space debris was an issue. Emerging spacefaring nations, mostly developing countries, did not possess the financial and technological resources to comply with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS or any other guidelines or technical standards. Those spacefaring nations whose activities had produced most of the existing space debris had a moral responsibility to help new entrants implement the guidelines.

12. Pakistan was opposed to the militarization of outer space and was concerned about an arms race in outer space. The need for negotiations on the matter within the Conference on Disarmament was clear, and Pakistan supported further consideration of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects submitted to the Conference by the Russian Federation and China.

13. The Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be submitted to the Legal Subcommittee for re-examination so that it could review the grey areas that had been identified over time. While nuclear power sources were required for missions travelling to the outer limits of the solar system or exploring deep space, their use in active satellite orbits was dangerous to the space environment and to spacecraft, and must be governed by an international legal regime that included stringent, legally-binding safety provisions.

14. Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission organized a biennial international space conference that focused on how emerging spacefaring nations could apply space-derived solutions to complex development issues, including urban and rural planning and reliable telecommunications services in addition to the areas

referred to earlier. Pakistan remained committed to the overarching principles of the peaceful uses of outer space.

15. **Mr. Kim** In Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the peaceful use of outer space for scientific purposes and economic development offered a promising vision for the welfare of mankind. His own Government's policy on the development of the Republic's space-related activities had been complicated by the special security situation in the Korean peninsula that had lasted over half a century. For the first time in the history of the United Nations, the United States and other hostile forces in the Security Council had transformed a peaceful satellite launch into a purported ballistic missile launch in an attempt to block his country's peaceful use of outer space. Yet despite sanctions and obstructions, his Government was making strenuous efforts to develop artificial satellites that were essential to push the economy forward, and the country's space capacity had reached the stage of launching satellites for a variety of purposes. The KWANGMYONGSONG-3 satellite, placed in orbit in December 2012, had been registered by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with COPUOS, in accordance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. The Republic was also a party to the main outer space treaties.

16. In 2014, a law had been adopted on the development of outer space and a National Aerospace Development Administration had been set up to manage the agenda on outer space projects. Government funding to train outer space scientists had been increased to meet the demand for research and applications in the field. Through the peaceful use of outer space, his Government's objective was to contribute to the rapid development of space science and technology and to develop the nation's economy so as to improve its people's living standards.

17. International exchanges and cooperation should be strengthened, so that successes in the field of outer space could serve common global prosperity and the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Pakistan appreciated the dedication of COPUOS and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to international cooperation and would itself promote peaceful international cooperation in the areas of satellite launching and outer space research.

18. It must be emphasized that the exploration of outer space, by any country and under any circumstances, should be for peaceful purposes only. The militarization of outer space led by the United States, through the establishment of a missile defence system aimed at Eastern Europe and the Korean peninsula, was entering the operational phase and stirring up an arms race in outer space. Such a move must be condemned as an outrageous challenge to international law and the common human desire for the peaceful use of outer space. All Member States should join efforts towards transparency and confidence-building in outer space activities.

19. **Mr. Pyvovarov** (Ukraine) said that COPUOS, as it advanced international cooperation in space exploration and shaped international standards for space activities, should use its strategic role to enhance coordination between Member States and the United Nations system in applying space science and technology to the challenges of development in all countries. Regional and interregional cooperation was essential to help States develop their space capabilities and to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

20. The work of COPUOS was also fundamental in guaranteeing that outer space was used only for peaceful purposes, for which transparency, information-sharing among States and compliance with international space law were requisites. All States, particularly those with major space capabilities, should help prevent an arms race in outer space and adhere to international treaties that promoted the peaceful uses of outer space. The comprehensive assessment by COPUOS of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) was timely, and the possibility of holding the next conference in the series should be discussed by COPUOS.

21. All Member States should work together to improve global disaster management and emergency response by making space-based services more accessible to all countries and helping to build capacity and institutional support. Welcome progress had been made under UN-SPIDER, and it should be given the additional resources needed for it to expand its services to States. More use should be made of remote sensing to support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures as well. The spin-offs of space technology were a powerful engine for innovation and growth and

could be used for social and humanitarian objectives, communications infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Ukraine fully supported the 2015 agenda of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

22. The increasing density of space debris threatened access to outer space and its use. Although some States were implementing the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS, more attention should be paid to the problem of collisions, particularly those involving objects with nuclear power sources. There should be continued national research on improving technology for the monitoring of space debris and on compiling and disseminating data on space debris, and such information should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. There should also be greater international cooperation on expanding appropriate, affordable strategies for minimizing the impact of space debris on future space missions.

23. In order to strengthen the legal basis for space activities, more States and intergovernmental organizations should adhere to the United Nations outer space treaties, and those which had not yet done so were urged to ratify them and incorporate them into their national legislation. International space law should be improved to respond effectively to contemporary challenges; there should, for instance, be a single, comprehensive convention on space law. The sharing of information on national space legislation could help to identify common principles and procedures that would facilitate consensus on the direction to take in developing international space law.

24. It was important in so many key fields to provide non-discriminatory access to Earth-observation data and to derive information at a reasonable cost and in a timely manner. Consequently, States should share experiences and technologies in collaborative projects involving the use of satellites, and data democracy was also vital to building national capacities. Continuous progress had been made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems on compatibility and interoperability among space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and on the integration of satellite systems into national infrastructure. More broadly, the exploitation of the geostationary orbit should be rationalized and made accessible to all States, irrespective of their current technical capabilities. The item on the geostationary orbit should remain on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

25. **Mr. Mbalati** (South Africa) said that his delegation was concerned by the increase in space debris because of the risk it posed to space systems, and it welcomed the proposal by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to establish voluntary guidelines to enhance the safety of outer space activities and preserve the space environment for future generations.

26. South Africa was committed to the responsible use of outer space, with full consideration of General Assembly resolution 51/122, which took particular account of the needs of developing countries. No additional burdens should be placed on new entrants into the field of space and all States should have access to outer space for peaceful purposes on an equitable basis, with due regard for the space activities of others. His Government would endeavour to ensure that national space activities were conducted in accordance with international best practices and the relevant international treaties.

27. The work of the Legal Subcommittee was vital to developing a shared understanding of the legal implications of rapid space development. South Africa was reviewing its domestic legal and regulatory framework in the light of developments in the outer space field, in order to determine the role of Government and empower the growing commercial space sector. The recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space developed by the Legal Subcommittee would be useful during that review, which would also be influenced by the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

28. South Africa was committed to utilizing outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humankind, notably through international and intraregional cooperation. The South African Government and its African partners, seeking to extend the benefits of space technology to the rest of the African continent, had drafted an African space policy and strategy, which would be adopted by the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology by the end of 2014.

29. **Mr. Hodgkins** (United States of America) noted that the previous session of COPUOS had been convened on the forty-fifth anniversary of the lunar landing of Apollo 11, an achievement that had led to

five further lunar landings by United States astronauts and had contributed to the understanding of the Moon. While much attention was focused on the application of space techniques to terrestrial problems, space exploration remained the ultimate objective of the United States as it sought answers to the origins of the universe and life itself.

30. COPUOS was the only standing body of the United Nations concerned exclusively with the peaceful uses of outer space. Other United Nations bodies, including the First Committee, were specifically competent to consider disarmament and international security matters relating to outer space, whereas COPUOS offered a forum to promote cooperation on space exploration and the sharing of its benefits. In January 2014, the United States had hosted the International Space Exploration Forum, which had provided an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation, highlight the benefits of national investment in space exploration and discuss relevant policy issues. Representatives from 32 nations, the European Space Agency and the European Commission had attended the Forum and participants had acknowledged the importance of COPUOS as a venue where all nations could discuss important issues, such as the long-term sustainability of the space environment.

31. The United States had been pleased to join the Russian Federation and China in sponsoring General Assembly resolution 68/50 on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities. The resolution highlighted the contribution of COPUOS in that regard and referred the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189) to COPUOS and other United Nations bodies for consideration. The highly informative report of the Group of Governmental Experts suggested, inter alia, that a United Nations inter-agency mechanism could provide a platform for the promotion and effective implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures for outer space activities, and the Secretary-General had voiced support for the Group's recommendation to establish coordination between the various entities of the Secretariat and other institutions involved in outer space activities. Perhaps UN-Space could fill that role. The report further recommended that as specific unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral transparency and confidence-building measures were agreed, States should regularly review them; again, COPUOS could play a role in that regard. The report also suggested measures on information exchange and risk reduction notifications that were directly relevant to work done by the United Nations on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. COPUOS had invited Member States to submit their views on the recommendations contained in the report; and the results should be submitted to the General Assembly and discussed in a joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees during the seventieth session of the General Assembly. The United States recommended close coordination between the First and Fourth Committees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in that regard.

32. The progress made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities was notable. Owing to the increase in space actors, spacecraft and space debris, it was essential to agree on measures to reduce the risks of space operations for all. His delegation was prepared to work productively in the Working Group to that end and hoped that consensus on long-term sustainability guidelines could be reached by 2016.

33. The Legal Subcommittee had a distinguished history of working by consensus to develop space law, and under the main outer space treaties it had developed, space exploration by States, international organizations and, more recently, private entities had flourished, and space technology and services had contributed to economic growth and improved quality of life around the world. The United States welcomed the establishment by the Subcommittee of its Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration of Outer Space, whose work would be useful to Member States when considering future cooperative endeavours.

34. **Ms. Rengifo** (Colombia) said that her Government attached great importance to placing space technology at the service of society and sustainable development in priority areas for developing countries, such as disaster risk management, tele-education, telemedicine and basic space science. COPUOS had made headway in its discussion of the relevance of space technology to the post-2015 development agenda. In order to advance development, it was essential, through international, regional and interregional cooperation, to get a better understanding of the collection, interpretation and use

of space-derived data, for they would inform beneficial and practical development policies.

35. Colombia was building capacity under its national Earth-observation plan 2012-2019, focusing on the use of satellite data to learn more about the nation's territory. Ratification of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space represented progress in outer space affairs in Colombia.

36. Her Government was committed to regional cooperation. In July 2014, it had sponsored a seminar on international space-based cooperation for the sustainable development of Latin America. Valuable experience had been gained from the Space Conference of the Americas and its international group of experts and there should be more such regional meetings working towards common goals. Mechanisms should be established to facilitate the sharing of space information, in order to move forward in key areas, such as disaster prevention and access to education, that were important to the nation and the region. To that end, Colombia had participated in the July 2014 meeting of the Americas Caucus of the Group on Earth Observations, and had contributed technical expertise on the interpretation of synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging to monitor land cover under the UN-SPIDER programme.

37. COPUOS, as guarantor of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, was promoting the development of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities. Colombia had participated in the third round of consultations on the draft international code of conduct for outer space activities and considered that the draft code should be brought fully into line with international law and be agreed within the framework of the United Nations through a formal negotiating process. The geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource at risk of saturation, must be used on the basis of rational and equitable access for all States, irrespective of their current technical capabilities, bearing in mind the needs of developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.

38. **Mr. Suárez Moreno** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that outer space must be preserved as the universal heritage of humankind, and thus must be used in rationally and equitably by all States for peaceful purposes and in order to promote the economic and social development of the peoples of the world. His Government reiterated its commitment to the legal principles governing the use of outer space. All States, regardless of their degree of scientific, technical or economic development, had the right of equal access to outer space for their benefit; and attempts to limit access and technology transfer for developing countries seeking technological independence should be rejected.

39. The intense activity of recent years could have a harmful impact on outer space, in particular the geostationary orbit, which was a limited natural resource at risk of saturation that should be used in accordance with the principle of rational and equitable access for all States, bearing in mind their needs and interests. The existing legal and political regime intended to avoid the militarization of outer space through the deployment of advanced weapons that could endanger international peace and security needed to be reinforced by agreements and measures to avert the danger of an arms race in outer space. The Conference on Disarmament should play a primary role in negotiating such a legal instrument. His delegation had from the outset welcomed the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, submitted to the Conference by China and the Russian Federation; but the Conference had not been able to consider it owing to the vehement opposition of one member State.

40. His Government was pursuing a space affairs policy designed to achieve technological independence, and was promoting the use of space technology for the well-being of its people. Cooperation programmes developed with the Government of China had led to the successful launch of two satellites, SIMÓN BOLÍVAR and MIRANDA, and a further agreement to build a third remote-sensing satellite. Bilateral cooperation agreements on outer space had been concluded also with Argentina, France and the Russian Federation.

41. **Mr.** Filateni **Coulibaly** (Burkina Faso) said that the exploration and use of outer space should go hand in hand with a real will to contribute to sustainable development and the rational use of resources. His Government remained committed to the peaceful uses of outer space and welcomed the work of COPUOS, which should focus on limiting the risk of the militarization of outer space and on developing space

law to guarantee its utilization exclusively for peaceful purposes.

42. As a non-spacefaring nation seeking innovative development solutions, Burkina Faso emphasized the importance of space applications and called for their more widespread use. As a member of COPUOS, his delegation had given a technical presentation of its experience of using space technology to secure land tenure with the support of the United States. With the support of the United States, the system made use of the American Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Russian Global Navigation Satellites System (GLONASS) to provide more accurate geographical positioning, and it would have an impact on his nation's socioeconomic development.

43. Other developed countries should show the same solidarity with developing countries, and strengthen their capacity to benefit from the use of outer space. At the same time, COPUOS and its Subcommittees should do more to promote international cooperation and the sharing of space information and applications, without discrimination. International cooperation was also the key to strengthening the international instruments governing outer space and addressing the danger of polluting the space environment.

44. Any inclination to militarize outer space threatened international peace and security. Every nation had an undeniable right to benefit from space technology, but States must act more responsibly and not allow their ambitions to jeopardize future generations. Confidence among States needed to be developed to foster solidarity and consolidate achievements in space applications, and it would be well for COPUOS to establish, in conjunction with the United Nations at large and with regional organizations, a space data bank that would be available to States in cases of natural disaster.

45. **Mr. Almahmoud** (United Arab Emirates) said that the peaceful uses of outer space should be extended to promote sustainable development, which required cooperation among peoples and the use of space applications in fields including poverty reduction, food security, health care, education and the management of natural resources. All should have the benefit of the resulting economic and scientific gains and should be able to use space technology to reinforce the mechanisms for dealing with natural disasters, climate change and the other pressing challenges of the day.

46. His delegation recognized the key coordinating role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and of COPUOS and its Subcommittees, and valued the work of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Those bodies should continue to enhance the space-related capacities of all countries, especially developing countries. There should be international cooperation in the sharing of outer space expertise and the transfer of space technology with a view to implementing the Millennium Declaration and the post-2015 development agenda.

47. It was important to develop space law by establishing guiding principles and an international code of conduct for outer space activities that would promote peaceful uses and prevent an arms race in space. At the same time, States must conduct their space activities responsibly and transparently in accordance with international law, so as to build confidence and ensure security in outer space.

48. The international community should pay due attention also to the serious danger to the planet posed by the increase in space debris from space missions, particularly those using nuclear power sources. His Government supported the efforts to formulate space debris mitigation guidelines that would provide a strategy for the future.

49. The United Arab Emirates had established a National Space Agency, which would over the coming seven years work on sending the first Arab and Islamic probe to Mars, in an effort to further space exploration and diversify the national economy with a view to sustainable development. The Agency would also work to raise awareness of the importance of outer space, encourage scientific research, provide skills training in space-related fields, and promote the development of space science and technology for peaceful purposes. Seeking international partnerships as it developed the nation's space sector, it would contribute to technology transfer, participate in international conferences and programmes in the field, and implement their recommendations.

50. The Government had also invested in the ALIA SAT communications company, one of the most advanced space systems in the Arab region providing secure services and high-quality television broadcasts and broadband Internet. The Emirates Institution for

Advanced Science and Technology had already launched two Earth-observation satellites, the DUBAI SAT-1 and the DUBAI SAT-2, and was preparing to launch a third, the KHALIFA SAT, designed and manufactured in the country by Emirati engineers and technicians. The United Arab Emirates had also hosted a joint symposium with the United Nations on small space satellite missions for developing countries.

51. **Mr. Bosah** (Nigeria) said that space activities were increasingly central to people's lives. Development goals and the challenges of climate change called for the kind of innovations offered by the latest space technology, which should inspire a collective resolve to expand cooperative space exploration for the benefit of all. Nigeria was committed to working with private, regional and international spacefarers to promote the peaceful uses of outer space, and therefore endorsed the goal of the African Resource and Environmental Monitoring Satellite constellation to provide easy access to satellite data for end users in fields including disaster management, food security and public health.

52. The Nigerian Space Programme was geared towards sustainable national development and an understanding of the country's environment. The National Space Research and Development Agency had been established to pursue the development and application of space science and technology for the benefit of the country. The first Nigerian satellite, launched in September 2003, was an essential tool for socioeconomic development. The National Geospatial Data Infrastructure had been created to facilitate the production, management, dissemination and use of geospatial information for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

53. Equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space for all States was important for the improvement of living conditions, irrespective of the level of scientific, technical and economic development, and that objective would require transparency and confidence-building measures. It was also crucial to prevent an arms race in outer space, since it was the common heritage of humankind. His delegation endorsed the development of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, which would preserve outer space for peaceful purposes and regulate the expansion of activities.

54. **Mr. Lim** Sang Beom (Republic of Korea) said that, since the first launch of an outer space object in 1957, the exploration and use of outer space had driven technological innovation in areas relevant to social and economic objectives, including sustainable development. Given the advantageous impact of space science, it was incumbent on all to maintain outer space as a usable domain for peaceful purposes. The Republic of Korea, a party to the five main outer space treaties, carried out all its outer space activities in a peaceful, transparent and safe manner, in accordance with the relevant international norms. His delegation attached great importance to the role of COPUOS in facilitating international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The proliferation of satellites and space debris had increased the likelihood of collisions in outer space, and his Government therefore supported the development of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, which would surely be pragmatic and would ensure greater safety in outer space for all States by adopting more forceful measures to ensure transparency and build confidence.

55. His Government had set out the objectives of its space programme in its Long-term Space Development Plan 2014-2040, which included satellite, space launch vehicle and space exploration programmes. The benefits derived from that space technology were shared with the international community, in particular developing countries. Since 2010, the Republic of Korea had hosted an annual international space training programme dealing with topics such as satellite systems, space science and space policy, and it had made satellite data available for disaster management, relief and rehabilitation purposes.

56. Contrary to the transparent and peaceful activities of many States, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continued to abuse the right to peaceful uses of outer space as a pretext to develop ballistic missile programmes, a matter of serious concern for the international community. His delegation recalled that the relevant Security Council resolutions and presidential statements clearly demanded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should not conduct any launch using ballistic missile technology.

57. **Mr. Cabactulan** (Philippines), reaffirming the importance of applying space science and technology to understanding the world and satisfying its peoples' development imperatives, said that the international community was in a unique position to bolster the role of space-based technology and information in achieving the goals of the post-2015 development

agenda. It was important to ensure that outer space was used peacefully and sustainably, and that it did not become the domain of an exclusive few. Outer space should not divide States: the development of both space science and technology should be as inclusive as possible. All States were free to access, explore and use outer space with due regard for the activities of others, and they should be committed to the demilitarization of outer space and should pledge to fulfil their responsibility to secure outer space for the benefit of posterity. The detailed report by COPUOS reflected those concerns and, more importantly, made recommendations for addressing them. That Committee was a unique forum for discussion and consensus-building between the States involved in space activities and the States aspiring to join them. It was also poised to play a larger role in global security, and the issue of security in space demanded greater cooperation between COPUOS and other bodies within the United Nations system, particularly the First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament and the Sixth Committee.

58. Space-based information was vital to the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and to a deeper understanding of the natural world. The Philippines reiterated its call for available, accurate and timely data to support disaster risk reduction and emergency response, and supported the work being done in that regard, particularly on remote sensing, including applications for developing countries, and on the monitoring of the Earth's environment. Under a disaster risk management programme, the first Philippine microsatellite would be launched in July 2016, in cooperation with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, and a receiving station would be built in the Philippines. Capacity-building was key to helping States access and use data and would empower them to become active data providers.

59. The current legal regime was inadequate to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space and to address issues related to the space environment. His Government opposed the militarization of space and reiterated its position that activities in outer space, as on Earth, should be based on the rule of law. Further norms were needed, and thus the rounds of frank and open discussions sponsored by the European Union on a possible international code of conduct for outer space activities deserved heightened attention. Given that the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects did not set behavioural benchmarks, standards of conduct should be elaborated in that context as well. Moreover, the limited band of outer space suitable for commercial purposes contained space debris that could threaten all space activities and daily life on Earth; and an international code of conduct should also address the issue of the safe and secure use of outer space. Discussions parallel to those conducted on the initiative of the European Union had been held in 2012 under the aegis of United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Process and venue for discussion were important considerations as much as principles. The proposed international code of conduct for outer space activities should be the product of a transparent, inclusive and intergovernmental process, held within the ambit of the United Nations.

60. Space law and space technology should advance at the same pace, since it would be dangerous to give space technology free rein. Greater interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee would therefore be valuable. In addition, interaction between COPUOS and the General Assembly, through the Fourth Committee, should be enhanced, and areas for collaboration and exchange identified.

61. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador), welcoming the COPUOS report, said that more resources were needed to expand the participation of less developed countries in outer space activities, and States already active in outer space should share their achievements with those not yet involved, with a view to an orderly expansion that benefited all States. Capacity-building was a means of contributing to sustainable development. His delegation supported steps taken to preserve outer space as a zone of peace and development, prevent its militarization and promote international cooperation in its use.

62. It was particularly important to negotiate a multilateral and inclusive code of conduct for outer space activities on the basis of four fundamental pillars: first, the principle of common use, since outer space was the heritage of humankind, which meant that space activities should be addressed within the framework of the United Nations and be based on consensus. Secondly, there was the principle of equal use, which required better regulation of the space environment for the use of all, with no restrictions placed on any State's right of use. Thirdly, the principle of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes

excluded its militarization by any State for any purpose, offensive or defensive, and demanded that space technology should serve the world's people and be applied in areas such as education, health, disaster prevention, climate monitoring, food security or agriculture. The fourth pillar was international cooperation, which meant that all countries must have access to technical assistance and technology transfer, irrespective of their economic situation.

63. **Mr. Forés Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that his Government appealed to the international community above all to prevent outer space from becoming the next setting for an arms race, since its militarization would be a major threat to the human species. The only means of prevention was to adopt international legal norms that specifically prohibited the placement of weapons — particularly weapons of mass destruction — in outer space. Member States should negotiate and adopt a legal instrument regulating the peaceful uses of outer space, after constructive dialogue between COPUOS, its Legal Subcommittee and the Conference on Disarmament. As the only multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, the Conference must play a primary role in preventing the militarization of outer space. It was the special task of COPUOS to fully bring out the ethical principles involved and to develop the legal instruments that guaranteed the peaceful, just and non-discriminatory use of all space applications.

64. The geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource at risk of saturation. Its exceptional potential for use in universally beneficial social programmes should not be diminished by the unbridled commercialization of outer space by some States and private actors. Cuba condemned the misuse of the orbit through the use of satellites to obtain information detrimental to other nations. Equitable access to outer space must be guaranteed to all Member States, irrespective of their level of scientific or economic development, with special consideration given to the needs and interests of developing countries.

65. The definition and delimitation of outer space was becoming more imperative. The Legal Subcommittee should focus on the theoretical aspects of the topic and on gaps in space law, rather than — as some States argued — limiting itself to practical aspects, which might actually provide a platform for the possible militarization of outer space. Cuba had signed a joint declaration with the Russian Federation in July 2014 on no first placement of weapons in outer space, and hoped that other States would take similar action to avoid an arms race in outer space. Cuba welcomed the submission to the Conference on Disarmament by the Russian Federation and China of a revised draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects.

66. Despite economic difficulties caused mainly by a cruel blockade, Cuba continued to develop space applications and research for peaceful purposes. The use of high-resolution images in the field of meteorology had contributed to weather forecasting systems, including fire detection and hurricane and flood prevention. Early warning systems for natural disasters were important to Cuba since it had considerable experience in the field, and it valued its cooperation with other countries in its region.

67. Although the right of all States to use outer space for the benefit of humankind was a universally accepted principle, it was not feasible for all States to acquire autonomous space capacities in the near future, rendering international cooperation all the more urgent. There should be broader information exchange, capacity-building and technology transfer, particularly in areas of interest to developing countries; while satellite communications, remote sensing of the Earth and its environment by satellite and global navigation satellite systems were indispensable tools for advancing sustainable development. COPUOS was a unique platform for international cooperation in space technology applications in areas that included food security, water, resource management and disaster management, and for cooperative sharing of space-derived data with developing countries. The issues of climate change and food security, where international cooperation played a fundamental role, should remain on its agenda. COPUOS should continue raising awareness of the potential of space technology in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and exploring further means to utilize the technology peacefully.

68. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that humanity had long looked to the sky with wonder. The exploration of the universe had deepened the understanding of faith and its rapport with science and reason. The Holy See rejoiced in scientific progress as the product of God-given potential and a manifestation of the richness of creation.

69. It was the responsibility of all to ensure that scientific advances benefited also the poor of the world. His delegation was aware of the constraints on universal access to the beneficial uses of outer space, given the scale of investment in exploration and questions relating to intellectual property, yet outer space had become a major economic asset. States must work together to ensure that the benefits of outer space did not become another cause of economic and social inequalities, but rather a shared resource for the common good. The peaceful use of outer space was vital in that regard. The ongoing discussions on an international code of conduct for outer space activities represented a positive step towards the fairer and safer use of outer space, and towards preventing the grave new international threat of an arms race in outer space.

70. The use of outer space to promote understanding of the planet could not be overemphasized. Satellites monitored the health of oceans and forests and provided data on atmospheric phenomena, which — if all people worked together — should lead to changes in lifestyles and practices detrimental to the environment. Satellites served, furthermore, to spread knowledge and eliminate illiteracy, especially in far-flung areas. Care should be taken, however, to ensure that satellite technology did not become an instrument of domination or a vehicle for imposing certain cultures or values. It was a moral obligation to preserve the space environment for future generations as the common heritage of humanity.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

71. **Mr. Kim** in Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his Government's space activities were the inviolable right of a sovereign State, as recognized by international law. The misrepresentation of its satellite launch as military in nature had been a pretext for applying sanctions and political pressure against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Outer space development was not exclusive to certain States and his delegation therefore rejected the Security Council resolutions that had imposed sanctions at the instigation of the United States. His nation would continue to launch practical satellites, in order to develop its national economy and improve its people's well-being, while complying with all legal procedures required by international treaties in a transparent manner.

72. **Mr. Lim** Sang Beom (Republic of Korea) said that the Security Council had made it clear in the Presidential Statement of 16 April 2012 that the launch of a satellite by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a serious violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, even if characterized as a satellite launch or space launch vehicle. Given its track record of nuclear tests and missile launches, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had no justification to claim it was using outer space for peaceful purposes. Ballistic missile launches in recent years had clearly violated multiple Security Council resolutions.

73. **Mr. Kim** in Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) reiterated that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would continue to launch satellites, in order to develop the national economy and improve its people's well-being in a lawful manner.

74. **Mr. Lim** Sang Beom (Republic of Korea) said that the comments by the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea demonstrated that it had no intention of abiding by international norms. Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations specified that Members agreed to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council, while article 103 of the Charter stated that obligations under the Charter prevailed over obligations under other international agreements. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was therefore clearly bound by the resolutions of the Security Council.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.