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**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:**  
**Legal Subcommittee**  
**Fifty-third session**

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878th meeting  
Monday, 24 March 2014, 10.12 a.m.  
Vienna

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*Chair: Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.12 a.m.*

**Mr. T. C. Brisibe** (President) Distinguished delegates, we will have to open the session of the Legal Subcommittee. If I may ask you again to please take your seats.

Good morning again, and I am pleased to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre, and now declare open the fifty-third session and 878th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all aware, the Subcommittee will shortly elect its Chair for a two-year term. With the Subcommittee's permission, I will continue to preside over this meeting until the new Chair has been duly elected, at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair.

However, before commencing with the election of its Chair, the Subcommittee should adopt its agenda for this session. We shall now proceed with the adoption of the Agenda.

Distinguished delegates, we have before us for approval and adoption, the provisional agenda for the session, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.292. The provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreement reached at the 2013 session of the Committee, and was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 68/75 of 11 December 2013. Please note that the annotations are not part of the agenda, and that there is an indicative schedule of work in the annex of that document.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the agenda is adopted?

*It is so decided.*

Distinguished delegates, I want to share with you — with heartfelt sadness — the passing in January of Professor Vladimir Kopal of the Czech Republic. Professor Kopal was one of our longest serving colleagues and dedicated contributors to the work of the Committee, in particular the Legal Subcommittee, and to the development of international space law.

Please join me in observing a minute of silence for Professor Kopal.

[Minute of silence]

Distinguished delegates, I now turn to the election of the Chair. Please be informed that in paragraph 27 of its resolution 68/75 of 11 December 2013, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2014-2015, and agreed that the Committee and its Subcommittees, at the beginning of their sessions in 2014, should conduct the election of the officers nominated for that period.

May I recall for delegations that the Committee at its fifty-fifth session in 2012 noted the nomination of Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany to be elected Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for a two-year term beginning with this session.

Therefore, unless there is any objection, may I take it that the Subcommittee would wish to elect Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl as its Chair for a two-year term, beginning with this session?

*I see no objection. It is so decided.*

I warmly congratulate Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl on his election.

Distinguished delegates, before calling upon the elected Chair to take his seat at the podium, allow me to make some short remarks.

I am honoured and pleased to be able to welcome Madame Simonetta Di Pippo of Italy as the new Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Over the last two years I had the privilege to serve this Subcommittee as your Chairman. To work with you, distinguished delegates, was very rewarding and I am pleased to note that this Subcommittee has made significant progress in its work in a consensual manner.

Among many achievements, the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space concluded its

work, which resulted in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/74, "Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space", adopted on 11 December 2013.

A new agenda item under a multi-year workplan on review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space was introduced in 2012 with promising prospects. Last year there was introduced a new single item for consideration at this year's session on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space. Furthermore, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space continue to advance their work by engaging delegations in forward looking discussions.

Progress and improvement in our common work would not be possible without the excellent support and guidance of the Secretariat during the sessions of the Subcommittee. I would therefore like to express my deep appreciation to the Secretary, Mr. Niklas Hedman and the entire Secretariat Team. Thank you very much.

Distinguished delegates, I now invite Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl to assume the Chair.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) Distinguished delegates, I would like to thank all member States of the Committee for electing me for the post of Chair of the Subcommittee for the period 2014 to 2015, and for the confidence that you have placed in me in furthering the work of our Subcommittee. I would like to assure you that I will do my very best and I want to assure you of my commitment also to the work of the Subcommittee and I am very much honoured to assume this important function, which was successfully fulfilled by my predecessor Mr. Tare Brisibe, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.

Distinguished delegates, with respect to the participation of non-member States in the session, I have received communications from the following Member States of the United Nations: Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Luxembourg, Panama, and the United Arab Emirates, and from one organization: the European Union, requesting to participate in the meetings of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee as observers.

I would therefore suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite those delegations to attend the current session and to address the Subcommittee, as appropriate. This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any

decision of the full Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly. It is so decided.

Distinguished delegates, I recall for your information the application for membership in the Committee received from Luxembourg (as contained in conference room paper number 3), and the application for permanent observer status with the Committee received from the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (as contained in conference room paper 4). The Committee at its fifty-seventh session in June will consider these applications.

Let me now turn to the programme of work. Distinguished delegates, as already noted the General Assembly last year adopted resolution 68/74 of 11 December 2013, entitled "Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space". As delegations recall this resolution was the result of the multi-year work conducted in the Working Group on National Space Legislation with Ms. Irmgard Marboe of Austria as Chair. The resolution has been distributed to all delegations this morning and furthermore, the resolution has also been included in the publication of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space, related General Assembly resolutions and other documents" as contained in ST/SPACE/61/Rev.1, which is also before all delegates.

The findings of that Working Group, together with the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks, being developed under the auspices of this Subcommittee, provide a broad picture of how States regulate their national space activities, and the exchange of information on national legislation allows States to identify common principles, norms and procedures on how space activities are regulated. This coordination and cooperation, in turn, enhance consistency and predictability in the conduct of space activities.

In continuing the examination of national regulatory mechanisms relating to the conduct of space activities, the item on our agenda, entitled "Review of the international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space", endeavours to categorize the range of mechanisms for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, non-binding arrangements, principles, technical guidelines and other cooperative mechanisms, with the aim of developing an

understanding of the range of collaborative mechanisms employed by States and international organizations. At the current session of the Subcommittee the Working Group under this item will begin its multi-year workplan.

Distinguished delegates, delegations also have General Assembly resolution 68/75 of 11 December on "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", our annual omnibus resolution, before them.

Furthermore, and as mandated by the General Assembly, delegations have before them resolution 68/50 of 5 December 2013 on "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", as well as the related report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, contained in document A/68/189.

This resolution and report were also made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-first session in February this year, and will be made available for the fifty-seventh session of the Committee in June.

Distinguished delegates, at its fifty-sixth session, the Committee agreed that the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should inform the Legal Subcommittee at this current session of the progress achieved by the Working Group in the period leading up to and during the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Accordingly, the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities will be invited to address the Subcommittee tomorrow, Tuesday 25th March, during the morning meeting under item 4, which is the General exchange of views.

May I turn now to the working groups. I would like to draw your attention to the work we have before us at this session. We will reconvene three working groups: the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space; the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space; and the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

As you will note from the annotations to the Agenda just adopted in document L.292, there are several documents prepared for this session, both for consideration in the respective Working Groups and under other agenda items, and you have a number of those documents provided in the package before you.

You will in addition receive a number of conference room papers during the course of this session.

Distinguished delegates, we should now proceed by reconvening our working groups at this session in order to allow for the Chairs of the respective Working Groups to begin their work.

The following Working Groups should be reconvened under their respective Chairs: first, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space under the chairmanship of Mr. Jean François Mayence of Belgium; secondly, the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space under the chairmanship of Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil; and third, the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, under the chairship of Ms. Setsuko Aoki of Japan.

If I hear no objections, may I take it that the Subcommittee wishes to reconvene these Working Groups under their respective Chairs? It is so decided.

I wish Mr. Jean-François Mayence, Mr. José Monserrat Filho and Ms. Setsuko Aoki all the best in their endeavours at this session.

Distinguished delegates, let me now turn to organizational matters. With respect to these organizational matters, as in the past, the indicative schedule of work annexed to the Agenda, which was adopted by the Subcommittee earlier this meeting, will be as much as possible, followed in a flexible manner and can be adjusted as we proceed with our work. General Assembly resolution 37/71 requires that members of each United Nations body be informed at the beginning of each session of the resources available to it.

Please be informed therefore of the arrangements made for this session of the Legal Subcommittee: assigned conference/meeting rooms include: the Boardroom D, the meeting rooms C6, C0713 and 15, and C0739 and C0727, which is all on the on the 7th floor of this building, as well as meeting rooms C0417, C0419, C0427, C0429, C0433, C0435, which are all on the 4th floor of this C-building. There is also another meeting room in the E-building which is E0953. Simultaneous interpretation will be in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Sound recordings will be provided for the plenary meetings in all the languages referred to above. Please note that, in the annex to the resolution 56/242, the General Assembly adopted guidelines on limiting the duration of meetings, including the following:

(a) Meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, namely, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., on working days; and

(b) Intergovernmental bodies should undertake a review of their meeting patterns and reporting cycles and, in coordination with Conference Services, adjust their meeting requests for subsequent sessions accordingly.

In addition to the above, financial and capacity constraints in Conference Services coincide with a trend of increasing demand for both meeting and documentation services. The existing capacities cannot accommodate more additional workload. There is a need to adhere more strictly to guidelines on providing interpretation, meeting and documentation services.

In particular, ad hoc meetings, informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours, or on non-working days will not be serviced. The Conference Management Service has introduced a number of efficiency measures, such as increased outsourcing, fully electronic document processing, reduced overtime and night shift and intensive editorial report drafting assistance.

Therefore, close coordination and cooperation between delegations, the substantive Secretariat and Conference Services is even more important. Our colleagues in Conference Services will do their best to deliver to us, as they did in the past. And with timely submission of in-session documentation, they will deliver as much as possible, documentation in all six official languages.

However, due to the constraints already mentioned, some documentation may only be available for the afternoon closing session unedited or in English only, depending on how late it was submitted for processing.

On your behalf I would like to assure the Secretariat that they can count on the usual good cooperation and understanding of delegations in keeping submission deadlines. And with that, I trust we will bring this session to a successful closing.

Delegates are reminded of the General Assembly's request to cut down the length of reports issued by the Secretariat, including the reports of intergovernmental bodies. Since the Secretariat continues to be pressured to further reduce the length of our reports, measures will be taken in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary-General towards achieving this goal. I give you assurance that this will be done without affecting quality or content of the report and therefore request your understanding and support in this matter.

Delegates are requested to turn off mobile telephones. I know this starts my Chairmanship with a very unpopular measure. When entering and in the conference room, mobile phones, and this is the reason for it, switched on and on stand-by, seriously interfere with the sound system in the conference room and hence affect the quality of interpretation and sound recording. This is why I strongly urge you to please adhere to this request. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee, at its fifty-fourth session in 2011, delegations are to be provided on the first day of each session with a draft list of the scheduling of technical presentations. In view of the fact that only a very limited number of presentations have been requested for at this moment, less than 10 I think, the Secretariat will not provide such list. And I would urge delegations to provide the Secretariat with any additional requests for technical presentations by tomorrow, Tuesday, 25th close of business. The list of technical presentations will then be distributed to the delegations and we will accommodate them [?]. I also remind delegations that speaking notes for technical presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to outline a tentative schedule for the next meetings. This morning, we shall shortly proceed with the general exchange of views. This afternoon, starting at 3 p.m., a symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law on the theme "Regulatory needs for very small satellites" will be held here in this board room.

At 6 p.m., following the Symposium, there will be a reception hosted by the organizers of this symposium: IISL and ECSL on the 4th floor of this Building C.

Are there any questions or comments regarding the schedule of work that I have just outlined? I see none. We will proceed accordingly.

Distinguished delegates, I would now suggest that we begin consideration of item 4 on our agenda, the General exchange of views.

In order to enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all items of the provisional agenda in a timely and balanced manner, the item entitled "General exchange of views" has been scheduled over a longer period of time during the session. The number of statements to be made under "General exchange of views" at each meeting may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. As a general guideline, statements in the

general exchange of views should be no more than 10 minutes in length.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished delegate of representing GRULAC, Mr. Herman Estrada from Nicaragua.

**Mr. H. Estrada** (GRULAC, translated from Spanish) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Group of States of Latin American and the Caribbean, GRULAC, I'd like to congratulate you, Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, on your election as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. And I'd like to assure you of the full support and active collaboration of our regional group to attain the objectives you set. And we hope that, under your leadership, the work here will be successful.

I'd like to take this opportunity to greet Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, recently appointed director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations. I'd like to congratulate Ms. Di Pippo, welcome her and wish her full success in her new task, which bears great responsibility. As regional group, we look forward to collaborating to see her successfully perform her tasks with extensive cooperation in the coming years.

We would also like to appreciate the work done by the secretariat in preparing this session. We thank them for the constant effort to improve the website and the timely availability of all the documents in all the different languages. And GRULAC would like to encourage the secretariat to continue with this great professionalism and we are eager and willing to collaborate wherever necessary.

Mr. Chairman, GRULAC supports peaceful use of outer space and we are convinced of the benefits of this for human development. GRULAC has always been a defender of, regulation of, exploration and utilization of outer space through the principles of international law, customary law and international treaties. In particular, we reaffirm: (a) universal access to outer space and conditions of equality for all States without any discrimination whatever be the level of scientific and technical development and economic development for equitable and rational use; (b) principle of common benefit of space activities, so exploration and utilization of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, must be for the benefit of and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of levels of economic and scientific development and this is for all of humanity; (c) the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies — these may not be the object of appropriation by States claiming sovereignty,

use, occupation or any other form; (d) the commitment undertaken by States for strict use of outer space for peaceful purposes to avoid, at any cost, militarization — especially looking at non-placement of any weapons in outer space with a view to preventing transforming outer space into a stage for conflict and war; (e) regional cooperation in sustainable development of space activities.

Mr. Chairman, today technological and scientific progress of humanity is reflected in rapid development of space activities and in greater use of outer space by States, international organizations and non-governmental entities, which could generate negative impact on conservation of outer space. If this does not go hand in hand with an appropriate normative framework regulating this, from the point of view of ethics and legal principles. Many of the questions we look at here are addressed in the framework of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and for that reason GRULAC believes that it is of the essence that this Subcommittee have greater interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with the aim of elaborating a system of international norms that are binding, regulating aspects such as use of nuclear power sources in outer space and production and mitigation of space debris, inter alia.

Bearing in mind that one of the main responsibilities of the United Nations in illegal matters is to promote progressive development over international law. For that reason, we would like to reaffirm the interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee should be strengthened so as to synchronize efforts for progressive development in space law from a comprehensive point of view. The supporting also binding norms and rules that exist.

The group is of the opinion that the synergy between these two subcommittees will also promote universalization for application of existing legal instruments of the United Nations.

The results in the working groups of the scientific and technical subcommittee should be submitted officially to this committee for examination and accordingly the safety framework [??] nuclear power sources being used in outer space and the guidelines for mitigation of space debris are documents that can enrich activities of the Legal Subcommittee. Furthermore, with the aim of having compatibility for multilateral norms regulating activities in outer space with new scientific progress and scientific discoveries, GRULAC believes that it is necessary to review, update and strengthen the five United Nations treaties on outer space with a view to having the enlisting principles more dynamic governing space activities of

States, strengthening international cooperation and bringing space technology within reach of our peoples.

This update should not be seen in any way as having impact on the fundamental principles underlying the international existing legal regime, but rather as enriching it and developing further such principles. GRULAC is convinced that the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space are the base for regulation of participation and responsibilities of States as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations in this area. And this also strengthens security and safety in space.

We believe that a special legal regime regulating activities in outer space will be such that benefits of research and use of outer space have impact on the quality of life of human beings, guaranteeing conditions of equality, prosperity and well-being for present and future generations.

Mr. Chairman, for my regional group, international cooperation in the area of space legislation is something that should be promoted, enhanced and it should continue to be strengthened within the framework of COPUOS, as it is one of the priorities of the Legal Subcommittee. GRULAC firmly believes that it is essential to promote active international cooperation from the more developed countries in space areas towards those with a lower level of development. Strengthening also interregional cooperation with a view to generating synergies allowing for better use of capabilities and resources that various countries in the region are investing in this area.

Accordingly, GRULAC welcomes the initiative of the Republic of Colombia with the creation of the Presidential Programme for Space Development, PPDEC, the aim of which is to lead, coordinate, strengthen and promote space development of that country and its integration into the international scene. For that reason, GRULAC asks the Legal Subcommittee for technical cooperation for the development of policy and institutional organization for Colombia in this area.

Moreover, Mr. Chairman, GRULAC attaches great importance to sustainable and equitable use of geostationary orbit, which is of paramount importance for developing countries. And our hope is that we continue to debate this broadly to seek new points of consensus, responding to the [[?]] characteristics of this limited natural resource. For that reason, our group promotes the creation of working groups or intergovernmental technical legal panels to examine this matter and calls upon the ITU and its subsidiary bodies to participate more within COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, our regional group, during this session, will have specific comments to make on items of the agenda to give a clear position of our region on these matters.

And before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to a point that is of special concern, which is the revitalization of this Legal Subcommittee. In our view, it should be strengthened as this is the priority for discussion and development of international space law. We are convinced that this subcommittee has a historic mission that must be recognized and considered. That's why GRULAC believes that the legal subcommittee should have a new thrust: it should be enriched with a broader debate so that we are capable to respond to the initial mandate of the subcommittee as a body for negotiation of space law.

Finally, on behalf of the Group of States of Latin America and the Caribbean, I can assure you of our eagerness and willingness to collaborate for a productive debate with the wish that our work is successful here. Thank you.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate of Nicaragua, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, for their statement. Next on my list is Japan. I would like to call Mr. Hidehiko Hamada to take the floor.

**Mr. H. Hamada** (Japan) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed my great pleasure and honour to extend our heartfelt welcome to the new Chairperson, Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl of Germany. I am convinced that with his excellent guidance the Legal Subcommittee would be led to great success. In addition, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo of Italy for her assumption of new Director of Office for Outer Space Affairs. I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Tare Brisibe of Nigeria, former Chairman of the Subcommittee for his leadership, as well as to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their untiring efforts in preparing for this session of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest condolences on the demise of Dr. Vladimir Kopal. His passing is a great loss not only to our Committee, but also academia and the space community as a whole. It would be almost impossible to find out appropriate words of appreciation for his incomparable contributions to the development of space law including the field of space exploration and utilization by the human being. I recall in particular that he served as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee between 1999 and 2003, and between 2008 and 2009. We are sure

that we will be inspired forever by his strong sense of mission and the passion with which he dedicated himself to the development of the space law.

Mr. Chairman, now I would like to turn to the substance to which Japan attaches importance in this session of the Legal Subcommittee. Japan would like to reiterate that, in light of the ever-increasing scale of space activities, treaties governing peaceful uses of outer space are even more crucial in providing the necessary legal order and framework in which these activities are conducted. We would therefore like to emphasize the need to use various forums, including the Legal Subcommittee itself, to call upon Member States that are not yet party to these treaties to ratify them as soon as possible. Furthermore, we would like to also encourage Member States that are party to these treaties to take the necessary measures in national level to ensure that these treaties are properly implemented.

In this regard, Japan fully supports the conclusion of the Working Group which was adopted as a stand-alone General Assembly resolution titled "Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space" in the 68th UN General Assembly. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Irmgard Marboe, Chair of the Working Group on "General Exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space" for her significant contribution to the successful conclusion of the Subcommittee's work.

Mr. Chairman, Japan would also like to reiterate that a number of Principles, Declarations and Guidelines in the form of UN General Assembly Resolutions governing peaceful uses of outer space have been developed in the Committee since the early 1980s. These resolutions have been playing an important role by complementing the existing treaties governing peaceful uses of outer space. Japan attaches significant importance to such resolutions.

At the last session of the Subcommittee, the delegation of Japan proposed the new agenda item "General exchange of Information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space", co-sponsored by Austria, Canada, France, Nigeria and United States. We highly appreciate the fact that many delegations to support this new agenda item and we are pleased to witness the consideration of this agenda item will commence in this session.

The purpose of this agenda is to facilitate the exchange and sharing of information on measures related to non-legally binding United Nations instruments. Japan looks forward to contributing to the substantial discussion on this agenda item with a view

to achieving meaningful outcomes. In this regard, we will make a technical presentation on the 31st March on the examples of Japanese practices in relation to non-legally binding United Nations instruments. We hope that all delegations would make positive contributions under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman, this session of the Subcommittee also marks the beginning of deliberations on the working group under the agenda item "Review of the international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space" chaired by Professor Setsuko Aoki. Japan notes that the Legal Subcommittee has been playing important role as a unique platform for the discussion of legal aspects of peaceful exploration and of the use of outer space and it is timely to review a number of existing cooperation efforts, to get a clear overview of the different forms of cooperation being undertaken as well as to analyse their patterns of success. In this session, we will be pleased to provide an overview of our many experiences of international cooperation mechanisms.

In order to provide the opportunity for delegations to gain a better understanding of current and future international mechanisms for cooperation in the field of space exploration, we are pleased to announce that Canada, Japan and United States of America will co-organize a seminar entitled "International mechanisms for cooperation in space exploration: a discussion of current and future mechanisms" this Friday, March 28th, starting at 1 o'clock in this room. The seminar will be followed by a reception and all delegations are cordially invited to attend both the seminar and reception.

Mr. Chairman, as we already announced in this Subcommittee last year, Japan restructured its governmental bodies for space policy in July 2012, and the Government of Japan also simultaneously renewed the "Office of National Space Policy" under the Cabinet Office with the aim of strengthening the role of governmental headquarters in space policy. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), which is a key component of this new framework for space activities, marked its 10th anniversary last October. The Basic Plan on Space Policy, which was renewed in January last year, defines JAXA as "a core organization that provides technical support for the entire governmental development and utilization of space projects". JAXA will continue to contribute to the development of society by devoting efforts to technological development in the areas of space and aviation while accumulating domestic and international knowledge and expertise in this field.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take this opportunity to share some information on our most recent space

activity achievements. The H-II Transfer Vehicle “KOUNOTORI 4” successfully completed its cargo transfer mission to the ISS when it re-entered the atmosphere on September 5th last year. Japan informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the success in accordance with the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

We also had the pleasure to witness the first launch of the brand-new launch vehicle, Epsilon-1, with the Spectroscopic Planet Observatory for Recognition of Interaction of Atmosphere, which is SPRINT-A, on board last September. In addition, the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) core observatory carrying a dual-frequency precipitation radar (DPR) was successfully launched by the H-IIA Launch Vehicle last month. Improvement of the accuracy of global precipitation prediction is also expected by simultaneously performing observations with the DPR.

We are also pleased to announce that Astronaut Koichi Wakata, who is in his long-duration stay on board the ISS, has succeeded Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kotov and become the 39th ISS Commander on March 9th.

In Asia and Pacific regions, Japan promotes the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, or APRSAF. APRSAF commemorated its 20th anniversary last year, and the last session of APRSAF was held from the 3rd to the 9th December in Hanoi, Viet Nam, under the theme “Values From Space: 20 Years of Asia-Pacific Experiences”, jointly organized by the Viet Nam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and JAXA. This year in 2014, APRSAF-21 is expected to be held in Tokyo, Japan.

Mr. Chairman, finally, let me conclude my remarks by reassuring the commitment of Japan to the accomplishment of the goals of COPUOS and by reiterating its willingness to work together with other members of the Committee to achieve tangible results. Thank you for your kind attention.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate of Japan for his statement, also for indicating the seminar you will be hosting on Friday. I will announce that again at an appropriate state. Thank you. I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate from Algeria, Azzedine Oussedik.

**Mr. Oussedik** (Algeria, translated from French) Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. The Algerian delegation would like to congratulate you warmly on your election to Chair of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee

on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Your great knowledge and your lengthy experience in the area of space activities will contribute greatly to the success of the Subcommittee’s endeavours. And we wish all of us a very fruitful session.

My delegation wishes also to congratulate Madame Simonetta Di Pippo and also the outgoing Chairperson of the Subcommittee for the great effectiveness with which he conducted our work. My delegation warmly congratulates Madame Simonetta Di Pippo on her appointment to the position of Director of UNOOSA and we would like to extend our thanks to the Office’s staff for the excellent preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairperson, Algeria follows with great interest the matters that are discussed within COPUOS within its two subcommittees. And we constantly contribute to the promotion of space activity for sustainable development and the well-being of our peoples. Our delegation endorses the efforts of the Legal Subcommittee to achieve a consensus on the items that are on its agenda. And it’s in this connection that we would like to highlight the importance of defining and delimiting outer space in view of the close link that it has with national airspace, in this connection.

[Technical issues]

Our delegation endorses the efforts of the Subcommittee to achieve consensus on the items on its agenda and we would like to speak to the importance of delimiting and defining outer space, in view of the close link between outer space and national airspace. In this connection, Algeria is of the view that outer space can be delimited in a concessional manner with respect to national airspace with a view to defining the responsibility and liability of States that have launched a space object in accordance with the provisions of article 6 of the Space Treaty and article 4 of the Liability Convention.

We would also like to highlight the importance of the equitable use of the geostationary orbit. Algeria believes that outer space is the common heritage of humanity and consequently it cannot be appropriated and this is in accordance with the provisions of resolution 30/80 of the 15th of December 1983. Measures need to be taken in order to guarantee equitable access to orbital positions based on the principles of the peaceful use and non-appropriation of outer space. The aim here is to overcome the inequitable fait accompli of first come, first served principle in the use of the geostationary orbit.

We’d like also to speak to the importance of possibly examining and revising the principles relevant

to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Our delegation believes that it's necessary that the two committees, Scientific and Technical, and Legal, should coordinate their work so as to come up with international standards on the use of nuclear power sources in space.

We also would like to speak to the importance of space debris mitigation. As its proliferation will eventually jeopardize all space activities. Algeria is in favour of the voluntary implementation of the space debris mitigation guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Nationally, consideration is being given to implementing national solutions to address this challenge. We are currently looking at selecting a site to host a space debris observatory. More generally speaking, my Government is setting about establishing a national legal framework to govern our national space activities.

Mr. Chairperson, Algeria believes that international cooperation is the appropriate means to facilitating the exchange and transfer of knowledge and know-how, and also for promoting the development of space applications and technologies for sustainable socioeconomic development, protection of the environment and the well-being of our peoples. In this connection, we are continuing to make efforts to strengthen our cooperation links; not just North-South but also South-South with developing countries. This cooperation which is both bilateral and multilateral saw the signing of memoranda of understanding and governmental agreements in conformity with the general principles of the United Nations on space activities.

In 2013 we signed a governmental agreement with the People's Republic of China, which concerns cooperation in the area of space science, technologies and applications. And we also signed an inter-agency cooperation agreement between our space agency and the space agency of South Africa in the area of space science and technology. This cooperation has seen the joint implementation of space projects, skills, capacity-building and applied projects that address the specific challenges of Africa. Algeria contributed actively in December 2013 to the discussions on regulatory aspects of space activities in Africa during the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, ALC 5.

Mr. Chairperson, my delegation reiterates its support to the work of the Subcommittee and we wish you every success for this 53rd Session. And in view of the upcoming chairmanship by Algeria of the Committee in the forthcoming biennium, we would

like to invite the African members of COPUOS to a meeting in room 0431 this afternoon. Thank you.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Algeria, Mr. Azzedine Oussedik, incoming Chairman of COPUOS, for his statement. May I now turn to Canada? Next speaker on my list is Mr. Jean-Marc Chouinard. You have the floor.

**Mr. Chouinard** (Canada) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Canada wishes to congratulate you, Mr. Schrogl, on your nomination and offers you our full support. We look forward to many positive developments over the next two years under your leadership. We would like also to thank your predecessor, Mr. Tare Brisibe, for his dedicated work over the last two years.

This subcommittee has many significant subjects on its agenda, and, as we move forward in a very important era for humankind's unprecedented access to and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, we encourage the Subcommittee to act forcefully in relation to the stewardship of space for the benefit of the multilateral community.

My delegation would also like to congratulate Ms. Simonetta di Pippo of Italy, recently appointed as the new Director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs. Canada is very pleased with this nomination of an outstanding individual with significant experience in both space science and management, and we offer her our complete support. My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to thank the former Director, Dr Othman, for her invaluable work over the years. We have greatly benefitted from her tireless efforts and great kindness. Let me also mention the deep appreciation of my delegation to the Secretariat of Outer Space Affairs for their diligent efforts in supporting the Members and in the preparation of this Subcommittee session.

As was mentioned at the opening of the session, Canada notes with great sadness the passing of Professor Vladimir Kopal, a great friend of Canada and servant of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, having twice been elected as Chairman of this Subcommittee and having served as Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee amongst many other positions and functions within the United Nations over a 50-year period. Professor Kopal will be greatly missed in his capacity as the foremost expert in space law as well as for his humanity, gentleness and compassion.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Canada announced in February of this year the Canadian Space Policy Framework that will guide Canada's activities

in space over the coming years. It provides clarity with respect to Government priorities and strengthens governance of the space programme. This framework is based on five core principles and proposed four avenues of strategic actions to ensure that: the Canadian Space Program will be able to deliver the services the Government requires to protect and advance national interests; that the Canadian industry will find the necessary support to be competitive in global markets; and that academia will be well positioned to conduct the research that will be the foundation of future space missions. One of our key areas of action will concern space exploration. Canada aims to continue to be a sought-after partner in international space exploration missions and will continue to invest in the development of Canadian contributions in the form of advanced systems and scientific instruments as part of major international endeavours.

Mr. Chairman, 2013 was a very busy year for Canada with the successful launch of three satellites, namely NEOSat, SAPPHIRE and CASSIOPE. NEOSat and SAPPHIRE will help improve overall spaceflight safety through improved conjunction assessments for collision avoidance warnings, and will contribute to a broader operational awareness of the space domain. CASSIOPE observes the Earth's ionosphere to study space weather effects. Canada also contributed six Canadian Electric Field Instruments for the European Space Agency Swarm Mission, a constellation of three satellites that was successfully launched in 2013 and that will provide unprecedented accuracy in the measurement of the Earth magnetic field.

And finally, work has started in 2013 on the construction of three satellites that will form Canada's RADARSAT Constellation Mission, a constellation of operational synthetic aperture radar satellites scheduled for launch in 2018. The constellation will provide reliable and continued access to radar imagery of the surface of the planet performed by our previous satellites RADARSAT 1, which ceased operating in March 2013, and RADARSAT 2, now in its seventh year of successful operations.

In 2014, Canada plans launching the Maritime Monitoring and Messaging Micro-Satellite or M3MSat and the two Canadian BRITE satellites from the University of Toronto. Once launched, M3MSat with its Automatic Identification System payload will provide an enhanced capability in the monitoring of marine traffic. The Canadian and the Polish BRITE satellites will join the two initial BRITE satellites launched by Austria in February 2013 to form a constellation of six satellites, nanosatellites, that will

make highly precise measurements of the brightness variations of a large number of bright stars.

Mr. Chairman, the existing international legal framework governing outer space activities has enabled States to enjoy tremendous benefits from activities conducted in outer space. To continue to enjoy such benefits, it is essential for all States, and in particular the Member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to adhere to this legal framework and to encourage the implementation of guidelines designed to improve the conduct in outer space. Canada reiterates its strong support for the core United Nations conventions on outer space: the Outer Space Treaty; the Rescue Agreement; the Liability Convention; and, the Registration Convention. Canada welcomes further initiatives aimed at promoting and implementing of guidelines and at strengthening them when necessary.

Canada also supports efforts to build a more secure and accessible space environment. In that respect, Canada considers as good steps toward that goal the ongoing discussions on the International Code of Conduct, the development, within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of voluntary guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence Building Measures. Of particular relevance to this Subcommittee is the work accomplished, within the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, by Expert Group D on Regulatory Regimes and Guidance for Actors in the Space Arena, the report of which is now available. We look forward to the presentation at this session by the Chair of the Working Group.

Mr. Chairman, this session opens with a number of timely topics. Among these is the continued accumulation of space debris. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and we shall hear during this session how States have reported on their implementation of the guidelines to date. There are also discussions among technical experts regarding the feasibility of debris removal and the legal implications associated with such an activity. The Canadian delegation intends to make a brief statement on this topic under agenda item 11 of this session.

Canada will also produce at this session its contribution to item 13 of the agenda as regards international cooperation mechanisms and my delegation will make a brief statement to introduce this contribution. We intend to participate in the discussions to take place in the Working Group that was created last year to review the cooperation mechanisms.

Canada will as well introduce a brief report under item 9 on Capacity-building in space law, of activities lead by McGill University Institute of Air and Space Law which, among other initiatives, is organizing the 2014 Manfred Lachs Conference in Montreal this coming May 17 to 19.

We also look forward to the continued discussions on item 10 regarding the use of Nuclear Power Sources in outer space, with the hope that the two subcommittees will closely coordinate their work on this subject matter and develop perhaps a joint workplan to guide future discussions.

Another topic of increasing importance is the ownership and transfer of space objects in orbit, an issue addressed under agenda item 5 and for which member States would benefit from an expanded discussion. Canada pointed out in the past that in-orbit transfers will become more and more prevalent as a result of increased commercialization and accelerating pace of outer space activities and the increasing number of non-government space actors, namely private entities

Mr. Chairman, in closing, it is the hope of the Canadian Delegation that deliberations at this year's session will be efficient and productive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Canada, for their statement. Next on my list is the distinguished delegate from Germany, Ambassador Scharinger, you have the floor.

**Mr. Scharinger** (Germany) Mr, Chairman, distinguished delegates, the German delegation would like to begin by congratulating you, Professor Schrogl, on your election as Chairman of this subcommittee. You are well-known to the ISC, especially with regard to your involvement in the preparation of the Launching State Resolution and the Registration Practice Resolution. Your nomination by Germany was supported by the Western European and Others Group, but your election shows that you are entrusted with this Chairmanship by the international community as a whole, for which we wish you every success.

Concurrently, the German delegation is pleased to thank the out-going chairman Dr. Tare Brisibe for his outstanding leadership. Under your able guidance, progress could be achieved in many fields. The German delegation highly appreciates the most skilful and effective way in which you oversaw and conducted our deliberations in the past two years.

Furthermore, my delegation expresses its highest gratitude to the Office of Outer Space Affairs for the

intersessional work and the excellent preparation of this session. We welcome the appointment of Signora Simonetta Di Pippo as new director of the Office, warmly congratulate Signora Di Pippo and wish for her all the best for her work.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank her predecessor Ms. Mathlan Othman for the excellent work done in the past years. Please allow me to expressly extend our thanks to the whole OOSA team, including Dr. Niklas Hedman, as we all know, had to bear a considerable part of the workload related to the preparation of this session.

At this year's LSC we mourn the passing away of the former Chairman Professor Vladimir Kopal in January 2014. Professor Kopal, for many years member as well as head of the delegation of the Czech Republic, was a most renowned space lawyer with an excellent knowledge of UNCOUOS. He always advocated a balanced approach between scientific-technical aspects and the development of the rule of law. Professor Kopal was a pioneer of space law and involved in the negotiations of the UN space law treaties. Furthermore, he played an important role in forward-thinking open subjects of the Legal Subcommittee such as legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures. With courage and straightforwardness, he spoke in favour of current issues of development of space law. We will keep him in memory as an outstanding personality.

Mr, Chairman, distinguished delegates, the year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the US-German cooperation in space research. The US-German cooperation is the oldest of the German space cooperations. In November 1964, an ARGBEE sounding rocket carrying a German experiment was launched from White Sands, thus initiating a very fruitful US-German cooperation in outer space. The Washington Office of the German Aerospace Centre — which was opened 30 years ago — was the first German space agency office abroad and is essential for fostering the continuous US-German cooperation in space. Germany is also strongly committed to the International Space Station whose 15th anniversary was commemorated in November 2013.

A current example of US-German cooperation is SOFIA, the stratosphere observatory for infrared astronomy, which conducted nine measurement flights during the summer of 2013. We very much hope that this project can be continued. We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our US partners.

At the same time, the German delegation is pleased to congratulate the European Space Agency, ESA, to the anniversary of "Fifty Years of European

Cooperation in Space". According to the German space strategy adopted in 2010, the German Government is committed to strengthening ESA as an intergovernmental institution. It is our firm conviction that an independent, strong ESA which is responsible for the coordination of European space activities is essential for the success of the European space sector. The ESA Council on Ministerial Level which is scheduled at the end of 2014 will focus on the International Space Station and the European launcher, Ariane. We are confident that this Council Meeting will find the best solution for the European future in outer space.

Very soon, on 28 May, German astronaut, Alexander Gerst, will depart on a mission to the International Space Station on board a Russian Soyuz spacecraft from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, together with an American and a Russian colleague. In particular against this background, we would like to express our gratitude to Russia, for the long reliable partnership with respect to the ISS and also for the successful cooperation between ESA and Roscosmos in the EXOMARS project.

The international cooperation often receives momentum by national missions such as China's moon mission. We would like to congratulate China to its successful soft-landing on the moon's surface in December 2013. We are looking forward to learning about the important new research results deriving from China's lunar mission.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Germany is strongly committed to the fundamental principle of cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space. We welcome the agenda item on this topic. We are looking forward to fruitful discussions in the working group on mechanisms of international cooperation under the guidance of Professor Aoki from Japan.

As examples for multilateral cooperation, the German delegation would like to highlight the "International Charter Space and Major Disasters" as an excellent model of international cooperation of 15 space agencies for the benefit of victims of natural or major industrial disasters. In April 2013, the German Aerospace Centre took over the rotating chairmanship of the Charter. This chairmanship was transferred in October 2013 to the Argentinian Comision Nacional de Actividades Espaciales CONAE. The first German chairmanship of the Charter strengthened our belief in the idea of contributing German space technology and expertise to save lives.

The German delegation took active part in the working group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the long-term sustainability on space

activities. We welcome that the Chair of this working group, Mr. Peter Martinez, is ready to present some interim results to the Legal Subcommittee. This is an important example of the necessary coordination between the two UNCOPUOS subcommittees. The proposed guidelines constitute a sound foundation for achieving progress in the protection of outer space environment by exchanging information on common practice and encouraging the development of new standards. In order to tackle the problem of space debris, it is essential to consider legal aspects. These are, inter alia, the development of normative standards for the avoidance of harmful contamination and legal questions regarding the active removal of space debris. The regulatory aspects of the subject of long-term sustainability of outer space activities should be integrated in the work of the Legal Subcommittee as soon as possible.

Concerning the Unidroit Berlin Space Assets Protocol, the second meeting of the preparatory commission took place in Rome on 27 and 28 January 2014. The Draft Regulations on the Register are formulated. The next meeting of the preparatory commission in September 2014 will focus on the selection of the registrar. The negotiations concerning the assignment of the Supervisory Authority function will reach a pivotal stage this year.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, please let me conclude with an item to which Germany attaches particular importance: the efficiency of this Legal Subcommittee. Later today, a Working Paper by Germany will be circulated relating to the restructuring of the LSC agenda. The objective of our proposal is to make more efficient use of the time and resources available for the Legal Subcommittee, thereby maintaining and strengthening the LSC as the main intergovernmental forum to develop space law. The two basic measures that we propose are a restructuring of the agenda and a phased approach for the two week session of the LSC

We strongly hope for the success of our initiative, which is the result of broad and very fruitful consultations with delegations in the course of last year and are very open for any additional views.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on the occasion of the election of a Chairman from Germany, I would like to host, together with representatives from the German Aerospace Centre, a reception tomorrow, on Tuesday, 25th March, at the catering area in this fourth floor of building C. The reception will commence shortly after our formal meeting at around 6 p.m. You will find invitation cards in your respective delegation's "pigeon hole". And the German

delegation is looking forward to meeting you at this event. I thank you for your attention.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank you very much, distinguished representative from Germany, Ambassador Scharinger, for your statement, as well as for the invitation extended to all delegations for a reception tomorrow evening. I will be there, I can assure you. And I may now turn to the next speaker on my list, which is Austria. Mr. Philip Bittner, you have the floor.

**Mr. Bittner** (Austria) Mr. Chairman, let me first congratulate you on your chairmanship of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2014 to 2015. We are particularly content to have a Chairman who has such a vast experience in the Legal Subcommittee, including the chairing of two Working Groups that have resulted in two important resolutions of the UN General Assembly on outer space matters. Let me also recall how much your widely recognized expertise and engagement in outer space affairs helped to launch, as one of its first directors, a new European think tank on space policy, the Vienna-based European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), that provides decision makers with informed views on many aspects of space activities. We are confident that our work during this session of the Subcommittee will greatly benefit from your skill and experience.

Let me also thank the preceding Chairman, Mr. Tare Brisibe, for his most professional chairmanship during the last two years. Under his chairmanship we were able to progress our work considerably. In this context, I would in particular like to mention the agenda item, National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, where his skilful guidance was crucial.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Ms. Mazlan Othman, who has been the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs since 2007. Under her resourceful and creative leadership UNOOSA has developed to be the clear focal point of space activities in the UN system, helping to initiate a variety of new activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. I would also like to highlight that we had an excellent cooperation with UNOOSA during those years and thank Ms. Othman for paying special attention to UN-SPIDER, which has always been of particular importance to Austria.

At this occasion, let me also welcome the newly appointed Director, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo. We were deeply impressed by her professional career in the field of outer space affairs and her excellent qualifications. We welcome and support her appointment and are

looking forward to working with her and to continuing our cooperation with UNOOSA.

Mr. Chairman, Austria welcomes this year's symposium on "Regulatory needs for very small satellites", organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law. We believe that the symposium on such a pertinent matter will contribute substantially to our considerations in the Subcommittee.

Related to this subject and as a follow-up to the symposium, the Austrian National Point of Contact for Space Law at the University of Vienna organizes a conference on small satellites, with the title "Small Satellites: Chances and Challenges", which will be held in the margins of the Legal Subcommittee on Saturday, 29 March 2014, from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna. The conference will focus on the specificities of small satellite missions from the practical, legal, and economic perspectives. The conference is still open for registration and members of delegations are cordially invited to attend the conference. You may find further information on the conference tomorrow in your pigeon hole.

Mr. Chairman, let me first turn to the agenda item "National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space". On 11 December 2013 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 68/74, entitled "Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space". This resolution is the visible result of our work in the Legal Subcommittee during the last years. We very much welcome the adoption of this resolution and would also like to highlight that it demonstrates once again that this Subcommittee is able to deliver highly useful results. However, the resolution itself represents only the very condensed essence of what we have been discussing in the Working Group throughout the years. We consider this discussion equally important as it had enabled States to gain an understanding of existing national regulatory frameworks, share experiences on national practices and exchange information on national legal frameworks. In this regard, we attach great importance to other outcomes of the Working Group, in particular the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks.

Austria itself developed its own national space legislation on the basis of the work and findings of this Subcommittee's Working Group. As reported previously, the Austrian Parliament unanimously adopted the Austrian Outer Space Act in late 2011. Currently, the competent Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology is working on

the necessary implementing regulation, containing in particular the detailed requirements for the authorization of space activities and the relevant documentation to be submitted by the applicant. Substantial progress on this regulation has been made during the last year and we hope to start the domestic consultation process with all government departments and civil society in the near future.

Background to these efforts to develop a national space law is a research project by Austrian and Canadian universities to investigate the brightness of massive luminous stars by differential photometry. In the framework of this project, the first two Austrian satellites, forming the BRITE Austria constellation, were launched on 25 February 2013, and have thus been in space already for more than a year. For further details, I may refer to the presentation held by Professor Koudelka of the Technical University of Graz during the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on 18 February 2014.

On 13 May 2013, Austria submitted information concerning the launch of the two satellites BRITE-A TUGSAT-1 and BRITE-U UNIBRITE to the United Nations for inclusion in the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Austria used the model registration form developed by UNOOSA pursuant to GA Resolution 62/101 of 17 December 2007, which provides for more detailed information than required under article 4 of the Registration Convention. Of course, Austria will inform on any relevant changes.

The adoption of the resolution on "Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space" is an important achievement but does not conclude our deliberations under this agenda item. Rather, we consider this to be an ongoing exercise. We therefore hope to continue our fruitful exchange of information on national space legislation under this agenda item this year as well as in the future and further develop the schematic overview.

Finally, I would like to highlight that the results achieved under this agenda item are highly useful for both developing and developed States for establishing or improving the necessary regulatory framework.

Mr. Chairman, let me turn to another agenda item to which Austria attaches importance; "Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space". Last year, we had a very good and productive discussion in the Working Group on issues relating to the Moon Agreement, to the interpretation of the notions "damage" and "fault" in the Liability Convention, as well as to registration of space objects in the case of transfer of control and supervision. The

set of questions prepared by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Jean-François Mayence, has proved to be an excellent framework to structure our debate. In this context, I would like to recall that Austria submitted a detailed written statement last year which was circulated as a conference room paper. We are looking forward to continuing the discussion in this session on the basis of the overview of responses to the questionnaire and the synthesis of views as announced last year and in the annotations to the provisional agenda.

We are also looking forward to continuing the deliberations on the review of international mechanisms of cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Furthermore, we welcome the inclusion of the new agenda item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space. Austria co-sponsored the initiative of Japan for this new agenda item as we consider this to be a very pertinent issue that deserves adequate attention. We are looking forward to a first exchange of views and considerations on the further elaboration of the activity under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the item Capacity-building in space law, I would like to highlight Austria's continued support for activities in the area of space law. In particular, capacity-building is crucial for developing countries as it offers them legal tools to derive benefits from space activities and participate, on an equal footing, in international efforts towards the further strengthening of international space law.

As to Austria, I would like to refer to our written submission on capacity-building, which illustrates the manifold activities in this year. In particular, several courses on space law have been held at Austrian universities, some of which included excursions to relevant institutions located in Austria, such as this Legal Subcommittee or ESPI. Furthermore, the Austrian National Point of Contact for Space Law co-organized the 22nd ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Space Policy from September 1st to 14th 2013 in Klosterneuburg, Lower Austria. Thirty-eight students and 4 tutors from 17 States participated. Twenty-two lecturers from practice and academia familiarized the students with various issues of space law and space policy, with a thematic focus on space debris.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding, allow me to emphasise that the Austrian delegation will continue to provide strong support to the work and the deliberations of the Subcommittee as well as to the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In this spirit we hope

for a productive and rewarding 53rd session of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate of Austria for his statement. And let me take the opportunity to congratulate Professor Marboe for her work, which led to the adoption of the recent United Nations General Assembly resolution on national space legislation, and express how highly we appreciate your successful leadership in the working group preparing this important document. Congratulations. Thank you very much.

Let me now turn to the next speaker on my list, which is Colombia. I would like to call Mr. Claudio Galan.

**Mr. Galan** (Colombia, translated from Spanish) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as this is the first time that I am taking the floor I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. And I can assure you of the collaboration of my delegation in performing your task. We are sure that, thanks to your leadership, the work here will be successful.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo on her recent appointment as Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and I'd like to wish her full success in her task leading this important office and I can assure her of the collaboration of my delegation. I would also like to thank the secretariat for the preparatory work for this session and for timely publication of documents on the Office for Outer Space Affairs website, which contributes to the success of this work.

Colombia endorses the statement made by GRULAC. Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Colombia with the strengthening of regional space capability through activities such as the International Seminar on Space Law and Sovereignty: Effects of International Space Law on National Sovereignty and Development. This was held in Bogota on the 31st of October and 1st of November 2013. This seminar was organized by the Colombian Space Commission, with support of the Presidential International Cooperation Agency, APC, where there was attendance of delegations from 15 countries with 11 international speakers. And we appeal that, in COPUOS and the Legal Subcommittee in particular, such exchanges be promoted for the region, which are not beneficial only to our countries but to the international community as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, Colombia, in reasserting its commitment for peaceful uses of outer space and its

interest in capacity-building and space development in our country, in 2013, November, developed the Presidential Programme for Colombian Space Development, with the view to lead, coordinate and promote space development in our country with integration on the international scene. This programme also seeks to have space capacity-building in our country as well as the application of space technology in areas such as health, education, risk management, total connectivity of the Colombian territory, governance, natural resource management, safety, security and national defence. And in that context we stress the importance for Colombia of the possibility of benefiting from support and cooperation from the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the area of defining policy, capacity-building and development and normative and institutional planning for development of space activities in our country.

And finally, on behalf of Colombia, I can assure you of our eagerness to collaborate, contributing to a productive debate with a wish to see the work of the session be successful. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from Colombia for his informative statement. Let me now turn to the Russian Federation and I would like to invite Mr. Dmitry Gonchar to speak.

**Mr. Gonchar** (Russian Federation, translated from Russian) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to begin by congratulating you, sir, Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, on your election to Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. I hope that under your stewardship this body will successfully discharge its tasks.

We would also like to express gratitude to Mr. Tare Charles Brisibe of Nigeria for his tireless efforts in the same post.

I would like separately, on behalf of the Russian delegation, to welcome the newly appointed director of OOSA, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo. We would like to assure her of our readiness to actively cooperate with UNOOSA on promoting international cooperation in this very important and also complex domain. We would also like to express deep gratitude to the former Director of the Office, Mr. [as stated by the translator] Mazlan Othman, for his many years of excellent service in this position. We are greatly saddened at the passing of the great veteran of our Subcommittee, one of the founders of international law, Professor Vladimir Kopal. This is a great loss for all of us, and we would like to extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Distinguished colleagues, I would like once again to draw your attention to the fact that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, in accordance with their mandate as approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, is the main universal body responsible for formulating the political and legal basis for the activities of States in outer space. In accordance with this mandate, the Committee developed the five agreements and the five sets of guidelines which, at the current time, make up the compendium of international space law.

In this connection, the Russian delegation attaches great importance to the activities of the Subcommittee under the agenda item on the review of the status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space. We need to achieve universality of the treaties. In this connection, we can only welcome the efforts of the Office to achieve new accessions.

At the same time, it would be an error in our view to see these instruments as set in stone, handed down to us once and for all, and not subject to improvement of any kind. We agree that at the present time the high level of resilience that has been built into these space treaties by their authors means that they continue to offer adequate regulation of the relations that arise between States engaged in space activities.

However, the nature of space activities nowadays is radically different to the situation that prevailed when we were working on the treaties. This is primarily due to the increasing commercialization and privatization of space activities, which has accelerated of late. We've already seen the launch of the first private manned spacecraft. In this connection, Mr. Chairperson, we must constantly analyse the application of the outer space activities, and we must stand ready to amend them as necessary.

In this connection, we would like to recall the Russian delegation's proposal for the drafting of the comprehensive UN Convention on Space Law. In our view, this proposal would enable us to give focus to development of international space law, within a specially established body, and would enable us to devise comprehensive solutions to space matters not already addressed by the Committee and is in the interest of all parties. Our delegation stands ready for a constructive dialogue to discuss our proposal.

Mr. Chairperson, an important outcome of the work of the legal subcommittee and of COPUOS as a whole is the resolution containing recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. We welcome its adoption at the last year's session of the Committee and by the General Assembly. This is the successful conclusion to

many years of complex work and we are fully satisfied with the result. We also note with satisfaction that this year the Subcommittee has two new items on its agenda as stand-alone matters for discussion. I refer to the General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, and the General exchange of information on non-legally binding instruments on the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space.

We plan to make an active contribution to the discussions here. We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that this year the Russian Federation prepared and submitted to the Subcommittee detailed information under agenda items 6, 7, 8, 9 and 13. The relevant documents have the symbols CRP.6, 12, 14, 18 and 23. They are available in English and Russian and our delegation stands ready to comment in detail on the information contained in the documents during the discussion of the relevant items of the agenda.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, we note the proposal of Germany set forth in L.293 to revamp the agenda and organization of work of the Legal Subcommittee. We look forward to working closely with the German delegation and with other colleagues on enhancing the effectiveness of this very important UN body. Thank you.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) Thank you very much, the distinguished delegate from the Russian Federation. I now give the floor to the representative from Venezuela. Ambassador, you have the floor.

**Mr. Durque** (Venezuela, translated from Spanish) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I would like to congratulate you and those assisting you in leading the work of this Subcommittee and I would like to wish you full success. We fully endorse the statement read out by the ambassador of Nicaragua, speaking on behalf of the Group of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, GRULAC.

We also would like to congratulate and welcome Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo following her appointment and director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and we wish her full success in her most important task.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in full compliance with legal principles, which are the foundations of peaceful use of outer space, has gradually been developing, in accordance with local and technological needs, national law in this area to

consolidate and promote our space activities at national, regional and international level.

So since 1999 the Government of Venezuela has set up a number of governmental actions in the legal framework gradually to consolidate space affairs and space institutions in our country. Through a legal framework contained in the existing constitution, article 11. Stressing the character of common heritage of all mankind of outer space, covering the rights that might be related to this regarding terms, scope and conditions, according to international agreements.

According to Venezuela, space institutions were strengthened with a space agency in 2008: the Bolivarian Agency for Space affairs, ABAE, which is an autonomous institute acting under the guidance of the People's Ministry for Science, Technology and Innovation, having the role of executive body for policy and guidelines in this area as set by our national executive. Being also responsible for national technological progress, which I can describe as follows, with satisfaction: the successful launch of the remote sensing satellite, BRSS-1 satellite Miranda, launched 28th of September 2012 from the People's Republic of China. To date, there has been cataloguing of 37,431 images of the Venezuelan territory.

The Miranda images allow to back up management and decision taking in Venezuela in areas such as urban planning, health, energy, farm planning, food security, social natural risk management, border control, control of illicit cultivation as well as sustainable use of national resources, inter alia. Furthermore, the VeneSat 1 space programme, which has the Simon Bolivar telecommunications satellite launched in 2008. With this we have 5.4 Venezuelans connected which in the past had been excluded. And that through rural telephony, Internet, tele-health, tele-education programmes as well as radio and television broadcasting at national level. Furthermore, coverage on the Caribbean and South America strengthened Latin American and Caribbean integration as well as international cooperation in the region.

Accordingly, we continue working to stimulate scientific research and technological development in space affairs with institutional projects in the area of physical Earth observation, satellite applications in social programmes and the Space Research and Development Centre projects producing small satellites, allowing generation of our own space technology through fostering and developing integrated science networks in the space sector, promoting research in cross-cutting areas such as electronics, telecommunication and education, inter alia.

Similarly, as an example of international cooperation, we can point to the organization of the course on space project management, held in La Paz, 4th to 8th November 2013, led by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela through ABAE, the space affairs agency, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. This training involved a module covering the five United Nations treaties on outer space and international cooperation. We hope to see a second such course in May 2014 elsewhere in Bolivia with training also in the Republic of Argentina.

Mr. Chairman, now to look at the questions to be addressed by the Legal Subcommittee. My delegation believes that it is of the essence to enhance interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, suggesting for this that legal results obtained by working groups of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee be formally submitted to the Legal Subcommittee for review. And in the safety framework on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the outer space debris mitigation guidelines should also be submitted to the Legal Subcommittee for examination. There should also be promotion of the creation of working groups or technical legal intergovernmental panels on the equitable use of the geostationary orbit.

We believe for this it is necessary to review and update the five United Nations treaties on outer space with a view to strengthening the guiding principles underlying State space activities, especially for peaceful uses, access to outer space in an equitable manner without discrimination, strengthening international cooperation and making space technology available to our peoples, including also the question of protection of the space environment, this in reference to space debris. This is of high need considering the increase in developments of outer space activities and greater participation of States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in this area.

For these reasons, my delegation reaffirms our position regarding the legal regime applicable to outer space and that it does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space. Thus it is of the essence to adopt appropriate, effective measures, allowing to prevent an arms race in this area. The existing lack of definition and regulation on these matters is such that it is not possible to maintain peaceful conditions for outer space and in the medium term this could be a barrier to space activities of States.

And finally, my delegation welcomes the addition of item 11, General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of

the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Since our examination of this will allow an open frank discussion, which is necessary for immediate response in these matters, especially the creation of a legal framework effectively to tackle the problem of space debris. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished ambassador from Venezuela for his statement. Thank you very much. And I turn to the next on my list, which is the United States of America, Mr. Brian Israel. Please.

**Mr. Israel** (United States) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The United States delegation offers our congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. We are confident that under your leadership we will have a highly successful session and we look forward to working with you.

I would also like to congratulate Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo on her appointment as Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and to express our gratitude to Ms. Di Pippo and her staff for their diligent efforts to prepare for this session.

The Subcommittee's last session was a very productive one, and we look forward to continued progress in addressing issues of practical concern to us all. The COPUOS and this Subcommittee have a distinguished history of working through consensus to develop space law in a manner that promotes, rather than hinders, the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In particular, this Subcommittee should be commended for its role in establishing the core treaties on outer space — the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, and the Liability and Registration Conventions. Under the legal framework of these treaties, use of space by nations, international organizations, and private entities has flourished. As a result, space technology and services contribute immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world.

This session is also an opportunity for us to consider the fact that many States have not acceded to the four core treaties, including some members of COPUOS. This Subcommittee should invite States and international organizations to consider ratifying and implementing the four core space law instruments. And, of course, it should encourage States that have accepted the core instruments to fully implement them.

Before turning to the work of the Subcommittee for this session, I would like to comment briefly on recent space-related activities in the United States.

The United States was pleased to join Russia and China in co-sponsoring UN General Assembly

resolution 68/50 on transparency and confidence building measures in outer space activities. This resolution refers the recommendations of a Group of Governmental Experts on space TCBMs to COPUOS and several other UN bodies for further consideration. We would urge all delegations to review this GGE report, which specifically highlights the contributions of COPUOS to the development and implementation of TCBMs that increase the security, safety and sustainability of outer space.

The United States also looks forward to consideration of the GGE report in June at the 57th session of COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to report that on January 9, 2014, the United States hosted a very successful ministerial-level International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF), in Washington, D.C., which provided an opportunity for nations to strengthen international cooperative efforts, highlight the benefits to humankind of national investment in space exploration, and discuss policy issues relevant to the exploration, long-term sustainability, development and utilization of space. I would like to report on some highlights of the ISEF, particularly as they relate to this Subcommittee's work on mechanisms for international cooperation.

Representatives from 32 nations plus the European Space Agency and the European Commission met to further advance the exploration and utilization of space and to highlight the direct benefit of these activities to humankind. This ISEF meeting continued the global policy dialogue on space exploration initiated at the European Union hosted Lucca Space Exploration Conference in November 2011.

Participants considered three topics: National Policies and Public Support for Space Exploration, Strategies and Shared Goals for Space Exploration and Utilization, and International Cooperation in Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Delegates acknowledged that the International Space Station provides a visible symbol of the value of international cooperation, and is a stepping stone for broader future collaboration.

Delegates acknowledged the importance of building public support for space exploration by demonstrating how investing in space benefits humankind, prepares our future in science and technology, and boosts innovation leading to growth. With participation by a number of developing countries in the ISEF conference, delegates also recognized the value of space activities in promoting sustainable development.

Discussions highlighted that human and robotic space exploration is clearly worth the investment of government resources, providing benefits, direct and indirect, foreseen and unimagined for the citizens of Earth.

It was also agreed that countries should continue to expand bilateral and multilateral work in order to maximize the benefits of space exploration. One key venue for this coordination will be through continued work of space agencies in the International Space Exploration Coordination Group, a useful forum for the preparation and coordination of a Global Exploration Roadmap. In the fall 2013 update of this roadmap, there is recognition of the value of a stepwise approach to exploration, increasing synergies between human and robotic exploration and a shared long-term goal of human exploration of Mars. These goals were shared by many delegations.

Delegations discussed international cooperation in exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space. The discussion highlighted that many of the space achievements of the last century would not have been possible without international cooperation. At the same time, competition-driven innovation at the industrial and scientific levels is also an important element in the evolution of space exploration.

Many countries at ISEF also recognized the amazing expansion in commercial spaceflight activities, which expand economic growth and bring new vitality and ideas to space exploration. They agreed that steps should be taken to facilitate the development of this sector in accordance with existing national and international guidelines.

At ISEF we also noted the need to expand the role of COPUOS as an important venue for developing guidelines on key emerging issues, building upon the Outer Space Treaty. These globally important issues include ensuring the long-term sustainability of the space environment for all users, in particular from threats posed by orbital debris, and protecting Earth from asteroids and other potentially hazardous objects.

ISEF was noteworthy in that it involved participation for the first time by a large number of developing countries. This demonstrates the growing utilization of space by nations with newly emerging space exploration interests and capabilities, and the increased role they will inevitably play in future international space exploration cooperation. Participants noted the need for discussion of international frameworks and common principles for collaboration on future exploration, drawing on the experience of projects such as the International Space Station.

The ISEF participants welcomed Japan's offer to host the next international space exploration forum in 2016 or 2017 and agreed that policy level consultations should continue in the interim until the next meeting.

Finally, copies of the ISEF Forum Summary and Agenda have been distributed to delegations and can also be found at: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).

The underlying approach of the ISEF is consistent with the United States National Space Policy of 2010, which calls for increased emphasis on international cooperation to promote the peaceful use of outer space in a wide range of areas. In November 2013, President Obama signed the US National Space Transportation Policy, which reiterates the importance of international collaboration in mutually beneficial space transportation-related activities. A copy of this new policy can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

At the ISEF, the Obama Administration announced its commitment to extend the International Space Station to at least 2024. More than 80 nations have utilized the ISS to date, and the ISS, which recently celebrated its 15 years in orbit, will continue to serve as a foundation for new exploration endeavours for years to come.

During this past year, we have continued to witness extraordinary accomplishments in our quest to explore space. I will briefly note some specific activities of the United States space program during 2013:

Eighteen different astronauts representing each of the five International Space Station partners flew aboard the Station last year, carrying out research activities at an unprecedented rate, with a visiting spacecraft traffic pattern that included US commercial resupply vehicles, European and Japanese resupply vehicles, and a Russian crew and resupply vehicles. Interest in human spaceflight remains extremely high, and in 2013, NASA welcomed eight new astronaut candidates from a near-record applicant pool of more than 6,000. Also in 2013, NASA's new Space Launch System heavy lift rocket completed its preliminary review and the Orion multipurpose crew vehicle remained on track for its first flight test later in 2014.

Together with 12 of our international partners, the International Space Exploration Coordination Group released the Global Exploration Roadmap, sending a clear signal that the global community is committed to a unified strategy of deep space exploration, with robotic and human missions to destinations that include near-Earth asteroids, the moon and Mars.

On June 28th 2013, NASA launched the most recent addition to its solar-observing fleet, the Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph spacecraft, which is providing unprecedented insight into solar wind and ultraviolet emissions that affect the near-Earth space environment and Earth's climate. Meanwhile, NASA's planetary science program launched two missions last year — the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer on September 6, 2013, and the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution mission on November 18th 2013. The Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer is in orbit around the moon and gathering information on the structure and composition of the thin lunar atmosphere. The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution mission will arrive at Mars in September 2014 to explore the Red Planet's upper atmosphere, ionosphere, and interactions with the sun and solar wind.

The Curiosity and Opportunity rovers continue to explore Mars. And the venerable Voyager I spacecraft recently left our solar system and entered interstellar space. These missions, and many more, are unlocking the mysteries of our universe for the benefit of all mankind.

In the Earth observation realm, the United States continues making progress on its two new meteorological satellite programs. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Joint Polar Satellite System is scheduled for launch in 2017 and will replace the current Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellite constellation. The next-generation geostationary spacecraft called GOES-R is on track for launch in early 2016. GOES-R will carry an advanced imager, improved space weather instruments, and a brand new geostationary lightning mapper. Together, the new JPSS and GOES-R systems will provide unprecedented weather and climate-related data to the environmental and research communities worldwide. We work closely with the World Meteorological Organization and countries throughout the world on user preparedness.

The United States Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior has been operating Landsat 8 since May 2013, and continues to operate Landsat 7. Landsat 8 provides additional spectral bands at a higher fidelity and quality, and acquires more images per day than any previous Landsat mission. All Landsat data archived by the USGS are freely available to users worldwide. Landsat 5 was decommissioned in June 2013, after nearly 29 years of successful operation and 2.6 million images captured and down-linked to receiving stations around the world. The Landsat series of satellites continues to provide essential information

for land surface monitoring, ecosystems management, disaster mitigation, and climate change research.

NASA and the USGS are currently engaged in a Sustainable Land Imaging Architecture Study to design and implement a space borne system to provide global, continuous Landsat-quality multispectral and thermal infrared measurements for at least the next 25 years. At the end of February, NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency successfully launched the Global Precipitation Measurement mission, which will continue and expand upon measurements from the successful joint NASA-JAXA Tropical Rainfall Measurement Mission.

As we proceed with our work at this session, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reflect once again on the extraordinary record of success the Legal Subcommittee has had in advancing the field of space law. The US delegation believes that much of the success is due to this Subcommittee's ability to focus on practical problems and to seek to address any such problems via a consensus-based and results-oriented process. In our discussions, we should aim to continue that tradition and to avoid the temptation to focus on theoretical rather than practical issues.

Thank you for your consideration; we look forward to a productive and collegial session.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) I thank the distinguished delegate from the United States of America. I have now an observer on my list, which is the Space Generation Advisory Council, which is represented by Ms. Sarah Moens. You have the floor.

**Ms. Moens** (Space Generation Advisory Council) Thank you,

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates and observers, It is my pleasure to address you here this morning. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of my statement is to briefly introduce the Space Generation Advisory Council's Space Law Project Group, and its current activities in space law and policy.

The Space Generation Advisory Council now has over 4,000 members from over 90 countries. It is a non-profit international non-governmental organization, and received permanent observer status here at COPUOS in 2001. In 2012, the SGAC established a Space Law Project Group to bring together young students and professionals interested in space law and policy, and to give them a voice on space law in international forums such as this. The Project Group is headed by Mr. Christopher Johnson of the United States and Ms. Joyeeta Chatterjee of India.

Beginning in 2013, our first ongoing research project is examining the preparatory works of the

1967 Outer Space Treaty, including the various Documents and Resolutions, Summary Reports, Verbal Transcripts, and Working Papers from the United Nations General Assembly, its Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and from this Legal Subcommittee. Our relevant period of inquiry begins in 1958 with the conception of COPUOS, and will extend until the final adoption of the treaty in January of 1966.

One of the principal sources for these documents is the online database of the preparatory works of the Outer Space Treaty housed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. This online database will be the initial source of materials for our work to understand the story of the drafting of this foundational treaty on space, and we are grateful to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for their foresight in making this database available for scholars. We intend to understand the story of the drafting and negotiating of the Outer Space Treaty, gaining insight into the interests of the parties, and to learn what was expressly negotiated, as well as topics the drafters may have missed or refrained from addressing.

In 2014, the SGAC Space Law Project Group established a Working Group on the law applicable to celestial resources, headed by Thomas Cheney of the UK and Kesorphearom Chea of Cambodia. This research begins with article II of the Outer Space Treaty, which states that “Outer Space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.” In light of increasing worldwide interest in harnessing the resources of our solar system’s celestial bodies, and aware of similar research, this Working Group will study the applicable law to understand its prohibitions on national appropriations, while also imagining ways for humanity to benefit from our solar system resources in a way that fulfils the Outer Space Treaty’s foundational proposition that the exploration and use of outer space shall benefit all countries.

In addition, at the Space Generation Congress 2013 in Beijing, a working group session was held which deliberated on the legal and political implications of the exploitation of outer space resources. I am pleased to report that the discussions were highly productive, and highlighted the importance of space law and particularly, the work of this subcommittee to the young professionals and students. The final recommendations proposed by this working group were presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS last February and the Space Generation Congress 2013 Final Report containing these recommendations is available on the SGAC website.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the SGAC Space Law Project Group intends to continue its participation in the global discussion on outer space activities and their legal aspects. I refer interested delegations to our website, [spacegeneration.org](http://spacegeneration.org) and its page on the Space Law Project Group, to learn more.

I thank the Subcommittee for their time and attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) Thank you Ms. Moens for introducing the activities of SGAC which are showing, as usual, a lot of dedication and enthusiasm. Thank you very much.

Now we have exhausted the list of speakers. Is there any delegation which wants to speak on the General exchange of views at this time?

I see none. So distinguished delegates, may I inform you that I have received a request from the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the opportunity to briefly address the Legal Subcommittee. Therefore, if there are no objections, I would like to give the floor at this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and, on behalf of the Legal Subcommittee, invite her to deliver her statement.

Seeing no objections, I give the floor to the Director, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo.

**Ms. Di Pippo** (Office for Outer Space Affairs) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, it is a real pleasure and an honour for me indeed, in my new capacity as Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to welcome you all to the fifty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee and to thank you for the opportunity to address this session of the Subcommittee on the work of the Office in areas related to space law. Today is my first day in the Office, and I am committed to devote all my energy, skills and experience into carrying out the mandate of the Office.

On behalf of the Office, I warmly welcome you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulate you on your election. My colleagues and I assure you of our commitment to assist you in making this session a success.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, it is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Professor Vladimir Kopal on 27 January 2014. For more than 50 years, the late Professor Kopal participated in and contributed to many sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees in different capacities: as the Chief of the then United Nations Outer Space Affairs Divisions from 1983 to 1988; and as the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee from 1999 through 2003 and for the biennium 2008-2009.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like now to proceed by reviewing the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs relating to international space law over the last year and to touch upon plans for the future.

During the last year, the Office continued to discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations treaties on outer space.

With regard to the United Nations Register on Objects Launched into Outer Space, maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the 1976 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) B of 20 December 1961, since our session last year, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America as well as the European Space Agency have furnished registration information to the Secretary-General.

In connection with article II of the Registration Convention on the establishment of national space object registries, the Office is pleased to report that Mexico and Norway have recently informed the Secretary-General of the establishment of their national registries. The Office would like to invite Parties that have not done so to inform the Secretary-General accordingly.

With regard to implementation of resolution 62/101 on registration practices, the Office continues its dialogue with Member States and international intergovernmental organizations on these issues. It should be noted that willingness to review and revise those practices has resulted in a greater number of States and intergovernmental organizations harmonizing their registration practices.

The Office would like to encourage all Member States who have launched and/or operate space objects to register them with the Secretary-General in accordance with the Registration Convention or General Assembly resolution 1721 B. We are deeply committed to ensuring we discharge our responsibilities within the mandates given to us in the most effective and efficient manner, and are pleased that the Register continues to enhance confidence among space actors by providing transparency through its mechanisms. As delegates are aware, the Office maintains a searchable online index of objects launched into outer space.

With regard to implementing the other obligations of the Secretary-General, the Office is pleased to inform it has received and disseminated

supplementary information provided by the Netherlands under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty. In addition, the Office received and disseminated information provided by the United States under article V of the Rescue Agreement on the recovery of a space object within its territory.

The Office continues to serve as the United Nations focal point on re-entry of nuclear-powered space objects for the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations. In this capacity, the Office maintains close contact with the Incident and Emergency Response Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the coordinating entity for the Plan, regarding notifications of nuclear-powered space objects as well as supplementary information on other space objects re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as part of its activities in the field of capacity-building in space law, the Office organized a special session on space law on the 3rd of December 2013, as an associated event of the African Leadership Conference held in Accra from the 3rd to the 5th of December 2013. The space law session focused on capacity-building in space law, legal aspects of space debris, obligations of States under international treaties on outer space, and national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space from an African perspective.

I am also pleased to inform that the Office, in its efforts to build capacity in space law, is currently in contact with the Government of China regarding arrangements for organizing the United Nations/China Workshop on Space Law, co-organized with APSCO, which is planned to be held in Beijing in November this year. In this connection, I wish to express the Organization's gratitude to the Government of China for its generous offer to support the relevant activities of the Office with a contribution of 20,000 US dollars received in 2013. I wish to also use this opportunity to thank APSCO for its support to the organization of this workshop.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as requested by the Subcommittee, in the past years, the Office has worked actively with experts from around the world on developing a curriculum on space law for the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations. It is my pleasure to inform you that this work has come to a conclusion, and the completed Education Curriculum on Space Law is published and available on the website of the Office. In its support, the curriculum has a web-based compilation of reading materials, also to be found on the website of the Office. This compilation contains information, and when

available, direct links to references and resources in the official languages of the United Nations, relevant for each of the modules and classes. Updates to the compilation of resources will be made as new or additional materials are identified, which makes the curriculum, as a whole, a living dynamic online tool for education in space law. A technical presentation, introducing the education curriculum, will be made by the Office during this session.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Office is pleased to inform the Subcommittee that it continues to update its space law dedicated web pages. Apart from providing Member States with reference tools such as the Online Index of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the National Space Law database, and the Treaty Status Database, the website also provides texts of the treaties, and relevant General Assembly resolutions and documents, in all official languages of the United Nations. The Office would like to take this opportunity to invite Member States to continue providing texts of their national space laws and policies for inclusion in the website.

Over the past year we have made a number of improvements of sections relevant to the work of the Legal Subcommittee, such as enhancement of pages dedicated to sessions of the Subcommittee, creation of a special page with the comprehensive collection of documents relating to the item on the definition and delimitation of outer space, introduction of an online tool for digital recordings of sessions and meetings. In addition, a web page dedicated to the matters relating to space and development was established, and the web page for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is being continuously updated. We also continue to add documents to our website entitled "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space: Travaux Préparatoires". The Office is in the process of including the preparatory works for the Registration Convention, so that all five treaties are covered.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Office continues to support the work of the Subcommittee in other areas relating to building capacity in space law. This includes: updating of the "Directory of education opportunities in space Law"; the updated edition will be before you a conference room paper and will be placed on the website of the Office; strengthening cooperation of our Office with space law entities and organizations with a view to contributing to worldwide efforts to promote understanding and the development of space law; and promoting the application of international law and provision of technical assistance to Governments on matters related to space law.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, In connection with the practical and legal arrangements relating to the holding of workshops, training courses and seminars organized by the Office on behalf of the United Nations and held away from established Headquarters, I would like to draw your attention to the necessity for the conclusion of an agreement/exchange of letters. It has been mandated by the General Assembly in GA resolution 47/202 on the 22nd December 1992 and reflected in document ST/AI/342 of 8 May 1987 that such agreements must be concluded prior to the holding of these events. Hence, I would urge Member States to be mindful that the Office will not proceed with such meetings in the future unless an agreement with the standard UN clauses as outlined in document ST/AI/342 of 8 May 1987 is concluded at least 3 months before the anticipated date of the meeting to allow formal letters of invitation and other obligations to be carried out. Once firm deadlines for the conclusion of all legal arrangements, including agreements and exchanges of letters, have been established, non-compliance could result in a postponement or cancellation of the event.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, with regard to the Office's strategic directions, I would like to bring to your attention that the draft of the Strategic Framework of the Programme for the period 2016-2017 has now been published and is available in the Official Document System of the United Nations under the document number A/69/6. In June of this year, the Office will once again request the Committee to review the draft and to provide comments or suggest modifications to the text. The Committee's decisions and/or modifications will be communicated to the Committee on Programme Coordination (CPC). The CPC is responsible for reviewing the programmes of the United Nations and is expected to meet and decide on the Strategic Frameworks of the Secretariat in June/July 2014.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on Friday, April 12th, the International Day of Human Space Flight declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011, will be celebrated globally. The Office will mark the event with the official launch of the third edition in our series of "Messages from Space Explorers to future generations". This series of messages pays tribute to the extraordinary journey of the men and women who have flown into space, and captures their unique perspectives and experiences in a distinctive collection. The booklet will be available on the Office website starting from April 11th and we will be holding a related exhibition in the Rotunda from next Monday, 7th of April, for one week.

The Office will also mark the occasion of the International Day of Human Space Flight by holding a social media campaign which will include the opportunity for young people to ask questions directly to our Expert for Space Applications, Mr. Takao Doi, on topics related to Human Space Flight and the work of the Office.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, before concluding, I would like to remind delegations that according to the agreement of the Committee nominations for the bureaux of the Committee and its Subcommittees for the period 2016-2017 should be made at this upcoming session of the Committee in June 2014. According to the established rotation scheme, the nominations by the regional groups should be made as follows:

Chair of the Committee: Group of Western European and Other States;

1st Vice-Chair of the Committee: Group of Eastern European States;

2nd Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee: Group of African States;

Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: Group of Asian States;

Chair of the Legal Subcommittee: Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in concluding, let me reiterate our Office's commitment to serving the interests of Member States in the area of space law.

Having my background in space science, in particular astrophysics and space physics, and with long-standing professional experience at both national and international intergovernmental level of international cooperation in space activities, including as Director of the European Space Agency Human Space Flight Directorate, I look forward to working closely with you all in our common efforts of advancing the role of our Committee and its Subcommittees for the benefit of all humankind.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Mr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Chair) Thank you very much, Director of the Office, Ms. Di Pippo for your first statement at this forum. And thank you for the information contained in this presentation.

Now I will continue then with consideration of the agenda item 4, General exchange of views, tomorrow morning, if there are no further requests for the floor and I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee. But before doing so, I would like to

remind delegations of our schedule of work in the afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3 p.m. I will then suspend the meeting of the Subcommittee to allow time for the Symposium — the IASL/ECSL Symposium. The 879th meeting of the Subcommittee will be adjourned then at the conclusion of the Symposium.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

Today during lunch time, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., there will be an informal coordination meeting of member States of the European Space Agency and this meeting will be held in meeting room C0713/15 on the 7th floor of this building.

I would also like to inform delegations that the provisional list of participants for this Subcommittee session will be distributed in the first half of this week. I would request all delegations that have not done so already, to send an official letter with the names of their representatives to the Secretariat as soon as possible, so they can be included on this provisional list of participants.

This is all for this morning. And this meeting stands adjourned.