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Chairman: Mr. BOATEN (Ghana)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 35 AND 36

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/32/20)

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/32/20)

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the decision taken at its third meeting, the First Committee will today begin consideration of the agenda items relating to outer space, namely, item 35 entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" and item 36 entitled "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting". The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has been circulated and is contained in document A/32/20.

In accordance with the practice followed in previous years, may I take it that it is the wish of the Committee to consider the two items that I have just mentioned jointly, on the understanding that those delegations desiring to do so may make separate statements on either of them. If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: In considering the items concerning outer space, we are reminded of the outstanding scientific and technical accomplishments that we have witnessed during the last two decades since the launching of Sputnik twenty years ago in October 1957. Since then, man has landed on the moon and man-made objects have landed on Venus and Mars and transmitted back to earth valuable information. These are indeed feats that we should be proud of. Man's ingenuity did not stop at that, and more recently the entire space effort has been redirected towards the solution of earthly problems that beset mankind.

(The Chairman)

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as the focal point for international co-operation in this field, has taken the lead in ensuring that space science and technology will benefit all mankind and at the same time take place in an orderly manner. In this connexion I must recall that it was under the auspices of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the first international treaty relating to space activities was drafted a decade ago. Since then, the Committee has added to the growing body of international law in this field by drafting three more international instruments. It is in the process of finalizing three others, all of which will no doubt contribute to the elimination of the threat of conflict in the newest environment to which man has ventured.

We shall be considering here the work performed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during the last year in its efforts at further advancing the rule of law in this field as well as its efforts in encouraging the utilization of space science and technology in the alleviation of some of the economic and social problems with which we are faced here on earth.

I wish to thank Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, who will be presenting the report of his Committee to us, for the excellent work performed by him and his Committee and its subsidiary bodies. I now call on him to present to this Committee the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria), Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: Mr. Chairman, before introducing the Committee's report I should like first of all to thank you for your statement and the encouraging words which you directed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space I have the customary privilege of presenting to you and, through you, to this Committee the report of the Committee on the work of its twentieth session held last June. My pleasure in doing so is heightened by the fact that that anniversary session took place in Vienna upon the invitation of my Government. It also served as the occasion for celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 - which you, Sir, have just mentioned - a Treaty which is the basic legal instrument governing the space activities of all nations and,

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman, Outer
Space Committee)

One can say, a milestone in the area of peaceful exploration of and co-operation in outer space.

Whatever progress the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space can report to this year's session of the Assembly, whatever progress was made would be unthinkable without the diligent and tireless work of its two subsidiary bodies, the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In this connexion I should like to pay a special tribute and to express thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Ambassador Eugeniusz Wyzner of Poland, who, incidentally, celebrated his tenth anniversary this year as Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, and to the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Mr. John Carver of Australia, for their able leadership. I should be much obliged if Ambassador Harry of Australia could convey these thanks to Mr. Carver. My thanks also go to the outstanding Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur of our Main Committee, Ambassador Datcu of Romania and Mr. Lindenberg Sette of Brazil.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman,
Outer Space Committee)

In discussing the substance of the Committee's work this year I shall first turn to the main issues dealt with by the Legal Sub-Committee.

As regards the draft treaty relating to the moon, largely completed as a result of previous efforts, the Sub-Committee gave priority to the principal outstanding issue, namely, the question of the legal régime governing the natural resources of the moon. The main difficulty relates to the question whether or not such a legal régime should be based on the principle that the moon and its natural resources should be considered a "common heritage of mankind".

Efforts to reach a compromise solution were made again, and indeed the gap separating the various views seems to be narrowing. The Committee therefore recommended that those efforts be continued with the same priority as before.

On the question of the elaboration of the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, the Legal Sub-Committee succeeded in finalizing the texts of nine principles relating to some of the main issues involved in this space activity and it also made progress in the formulation of a draft preamble.

The remaining principal points of contention relate to the principle of freedom of information and of sovereignty of States. In this context, it was possible to formulate a tentative text of a principle on "consultation and agreements between States", and in view of that progress it was hoped that the draft principles could perhaps even be finalized by the main Committee during its Vienna meeting.

The Committee, with the help of the working group which became active during its Vienna meeting, indeed made progress on the wording of the above-mentioned tentative preamble and principle. Lack of time was the main reason why these efforts could not be completed. On account of these significant developments, however, the Committee agreed that the Legal Sub-Committee at its next session should continue to consider this item as a matter of high priority.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman,
Outer Space Committee)

Furthermore, the Legal Sub-Committee continued detailed consideration of the third priority item, namely, the legal implications of earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites and was able to complete the text of six more draft principles in addition to the five principles already worked out at its previous session. On the wording of some of these 11 principles, final consensus has yet to be reached. Here, the main outstanding issue relates to the question whether or not prior consent is required for a sensing State to conduct remote sensing over the territory of another State and to make available satellite remote sensing information to third parties. The Committee recommended that the question be further considered at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee with the same priority as the first two issues previously mentioned.

The question of the definition or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities was the subject of a brief discussion in the Legal Sub-Committee. In the course of the discussion, reference was made to the question of the geostationary orbit. Several delegations which are not members of the Committee were given the opportunity to address both the Legal Sub-Committee and the Committee on this matter. The Committee recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee should bear that question in mind.

Finally, on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, the Sub-Committee adopted a draft resolution on the matter, which the Committee now recommends to the General Assembly for adoption. I have the honour herewith to introduce this draft resolution on behalf of the Committee. It will be issued in document A/C.1/32/L.39, and it highlights the importance of this Treaty and calls for wider adherence to it.

Let me turn now to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which gave priority once again to the question relating to remote sensing by satellites and to the important co-ordinating role to be played by the United Nations in this field. It was felt that further study of the organizational, technical and financial aspects of such activities should progress together with consideration of the legal aspects of remote sensing, to which I referred briefly before speaking on the work of the Legal Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman,
Outer Space Committee)

Satellite remote sensing systems will one day, like satellite weather and communications systems, become operational and the use of satellite data could become an integral and valuable part of national economies. International co-operation, for the majority of countries, will be the only cost-effective approach to benefiting from this technology, and it therefore seems essential that international co-operation be broadened. Several pre-operational space segments are already in operation or planned and at least one member country is developing an operational remote sensing system.

Since it is now evident that several operational systems with quite different operational roles and characteristics might evolve, there will be an important role for the United Nations to play in encouraging to the greatest practicable degree of compatibility of such systems. In this context it was recommended accordingly that the Secretariat should undertake a study relating to those questions.

The Sub-Committee discussed a proposal to classify remote sensing data into categories based on spatial resolution, without reaching agreement on the concept or the need for such classification. Debate thereon will be continued and the Secretariat has been requested to conduct another study on the matter.

Discussion on the dissemination of information, based on data, remained inconclusive, though it was agreed that there was no scientific or technical basis for a sensed State not having timely and non-discriminatory access to data on its territory. Several countries are already using data from the United States LANDSAT systems and the Soviet Union has declared its readiness to provide data to all interested States on the basis of agreements. Such co-operative activities were highly appreciated by the Sub-Committee.

Efforts continue to be made by the United Nations and its agencies to utilize remote sensing data in their programmes on behalf of developing countries. The importance of providing adequate training facilities in this area, particularly to the developing countries, cannot be over-stressed.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman,
Outer Space Committee)

The strengthening of the role of the remote sensing centre at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the area of renewable resources and the establishment of a centre at the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport in the area of non-agricultural resources therefore seems significant.

May I now turn to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications which has conducted a great number of panels, seminars and training workshops in most regions of the world, with the participation of specialized agencies and other international organizations and the co-operation and assistance of Member States. That, as well as the training of experts by various Governments, was warmly welcomed by the Committee. The Committee thus approved the space applications programme for 1978 and noted the view of several delegations that the programme should be expanded and should receive greater financial support.

Another important question was before the Committee, the possibility of convening a United Nations conference on outer space. The Committee recommended in that respect that a task force be set up by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of the Sub-Committee's own Chairman to consider all the relevant aspects. Thus the Committee will be in a position to come closer to a final decision on that matter.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman, Outer
Space Committee)

The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the specialized agencies for their continued co-operation and welcomed the work carried out at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Rocket Station in Argentina with respect to which continued United Nations sponsorship should be granted.

In this connexion, the Committee also expressed its appreciation to the many Member States which had provided scholarships for the study of questions relating to outer space. It would be impossible here to repeat those tributes which are contained in the report of the Committee.

As concerns the subject of the geostationary orbit, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should at its next session examine its physical nature and technical attributes and consider a relevant study to be prepared by the Secretariat.

This is a brief outline of the main activities of the Committee and its various sub-bodies.

Like that of few other bodies of the United Nations, the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is directed towards the future. Rather than coping with the manifold inequities of the present world economic and political system, the Committee is trying to arrange, within the political and geographical limits of its mandate, for a better and more just order in a world whose boundaries it is attempting to push further and further into space. For a Committee thus oriented, it is legitimate and perhaps even indispensable to examine, again and again, areas of future action. The past anniversary session which highlighted the first 20 years of its work, provided us with an excellent opportunity to do just that.

Some of the issues touched upon were the role of space technology, particularly through the transmission of solar energy, in meeting the growing concern over securing sufficient energy for the world's needs without endangering the environmental quality of our planet. As Professor Glaser

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman, Outer
Space Committee)

put it in a recent study of UNITAR, the solar power satellite option "represents one of the most promising non-depletable energy options, which could significantly impact the global energy demands after the beginning of the twenty-first century".

Another subject of the future raised concerned the uses and implications of economical space transportation symbolized by such new ventures as the space shuttle which will revolutionize space transport in the coming decade.

Serious thought is now being given to manufacturing in outer space by setting up permanent space colonies and, more immediately, the establishment of space stations and space laboratories on the moon and other celestial bodies seems an even more practical possibility.

The potential benefits that such uses of outer space could bring all mankind, developing and developed countries alike, underscore the need to preserve outer space, as is indeed proposed by the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, as a zone of peace and to discourage everything which could transfer the arms race from earth into outer space.

These new activities in outer space, the future activities which have become possible, the increased volume of international co-operation which they will encourage, will test the United Nations and its agencies and challenge us to seek improvement and refinement of the United Nations machinery which is mainly devoted to the promotion of peaceful co-operation in outer space.

Over the past 20 years, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was the focal point and the centre-piece of this unique United Nations effort. Year after year, the Committee has approached its task in a spirit of responsibility, but perhaps also in a spirit of co-operation and compromise which has survived periods of crisis and confrontation in other spheres of work of this Organization. Thus, I might remind you that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was the first of a growing body of United Nations organs which agreed to take its decisions on the basis of consensus only. This was an early recognition of the fact,

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman, Outer
Space Committee)

more widely accepted than before - and now, perhaps more widely accepted than ever - that there is an intimate connexion between the process of decision-making and the process of implementation. If the battle cry of the American Revolution was "No taxation without representation," it is equally important in our time perhaps to seek the co-operation of all those who are supposed to help in making United Nations decisions a living reality. I submit that decision-making of this kind is not opposed to the democratic process which needs the occasional interchange between majority and minority. Consensus procedures are not a rejection of this fundamental principle. They only seek to make the majority a broader one, to rally maximum support, thus often eliminating the need for dissent. This is, of course, a slower and more painstaking process.

The record of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of its achievements in space legislation for one thing, is perhaps proof that this method which we have adopted is worthwhile.

In discharging its mandate, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has been eager at all times to strengthen and widen its ties with the membership of the United Nations as a whole, so as to bring awareness of the universal benefits of space technology and space science to a growing number of the countries of this Organization. A Committee of this nature was not intended to be and never was, in fact, an exclusive club devoted to the cultivation of the expensive hobbies of a few rich countries. On the contrary, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was and remains open to the constructive dialogue which is so typical of the best in United Nations work.

Furthermore, over the past 20 years its membership has more than doubled, and the last increase in membership, decided on by the General Assembly in resolution 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, has been of special significance, in view of the fact that it gave many more developing countries an opportunity to join the Committee. The continuing interest in membership in the Committee is an encouragement to its members and reflects, we believe, favourably on the work of the Committee.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman, Outer
Space Committee)

Mr. Chairman, let me say in conclusion, echoing your own words at the beginning of this meeting, that it is only 20 years since the first Sputnik circled the earth and electrified the world, and nearly 10 years since man first set foot on the moon, and each year has brought new moments of drama in the conquest of outer space by man.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Chairman, Outer
Space Committee)

The United Nations should try, as in the past 20 years, to make its constructive contribution to this process of dramatic change. It can do so by projecting some of its own principles and ideas, chiefly the ideas of peace and international co-operation, across the new borders of mankind. It can do so by providing the indispensable political and legal framework for the development of some of the most significant new forces of science and technology in our present world.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Jankowitsch, the representative of Austria, for his invaluable statement.

Mr. CEAUSU (Romania) (interpretation from French): First of all, I should like Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch for presenting so fully the report on the work of the Outer Space Committee and its two sub-committees.

This year marks the anniversary of two memorable events in the realm of space activities, namely, the beginning of 20 years of space activity by the launching of the first artificial earth satellite by the Soviet Union, and the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

During the 20 years of the space era there has been spectacular progress in the exploration and practical utilization of outer space. Beginning with the memorable event of the landing on the moon of the first earthlings by the United States, these last 20 years have seen the development at an awesome rate of the use of space technology in solving the economic and social problems of the peoples of the world and in improving living conditions on earth. The use of artificial earth satellites has opened up new prospects in the realm of telecommunications, meteorology, marine navigation, remote sensing of the earth's natural resources, forecasting of natural catastrophes and so on. The progress that has been made gives us an intriguing glimpse of the possibilities of modern science and technology, when they are harnessed in the service of mankind and not used to perfect new means of destruction.

(Mr. Ceausu, Romania)

Of course this scientific and technological revolution in the realm of space activities has been the work mainly of a very limited number of countries. Hence the problem of bringing in other countries and sharing with them the benefits of space activities whatever may be their level of development. The concerns and achievements of Romania in the field of space activities are an example of what can be done by a medium-sized country that is, however, not a space Power. For example, my country has acquired a ground station to use the Intelsat satellites and very soon will be assured telecommunication links by the INTERSPUTNIK system. Similarly, my country has developed and begun to put into operation the special programme of activities for the remote sensing of earth resources and the environment by satellites and from space platforms. In this regard, it has been decided to build a ground station to receive directly and to use real-time data, which are necessary for agriculture, forestry and so on.

Romania attaches particular importance to international co-operation, in the conviction that it is only in this way that developing countries will be able to benefit from the results of progress in the field of outer space and reduce and eliminate the gap existing in that field also between them and the industrialized countries. We remain convinced that the United Nations and its specialized agencies constitute the best framework for the development of multilateral international development in the realm of outer space and, indeed, in many other areas. Obviously, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has a contribution to make here that is of primary importance. The report that it has presented to the General Assembly amply reflects its activities and those of its sub-committees during this past year. The remote sensing of the earth from space has been for several years now the chief question considered by that Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. It is worth noting in this connexion that the Committee reached the conclusion that:

"international co-operation was needed as that was the only cost-effective approach for acquiring the benefits of satellite remote sensing for the majority of countries, keeping in mind the special needs of the developing countries". (A/32/20, para. 42)

The contribution of the Committee to international co-operation in the area of the remote sensing of the earth from space does not, nevertheless, measure up to the possibilities offered by the United Nations. It is true that in the

(Mr. Ceausu, Romania)

field of the specialized training of personnel and of technical assistance some progress has been made. At its last session, the Committee recommended that the role of the remote sensing centre of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the field of renewable resources should be strengthened, and the Committee decided to create at the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport (CNRET) a centre dealing with non-agricultural resources. Among the functions of these centres, I should like to highlight those of gathering, cataloguing, filing and interpreting remote sensing data and of offering those concerned the opportunity to consult such data. However, the effect of these decisions will not be what is hoped for if the activities of these two centres are confined to the financial resources available.

The Romanian delegation would like to point out with satisfaction the progress achieved in the execution of the United Nations programme on space applications, but here again the limits imposed by budgetary considerations have meant that this programme has not been able fully to meet the present and long-term needs of the developing countries. In our view, the principal objective of the consideration by the Committee of the remote sensing of the earth from space should be the preparation of the necessary recommendations for setting up one or more operational systems within the United Nations framework for the co-ordination of activities carried out in this area by the specialized agencies. The Romanian delegation supports the proposal to convene an international conference on space questions for the purpose of adopting a plan of concrete measures and recommendations to develop international co-operation in the field of space technology and its applications.

(Mr. Ceausu, Romania)

If international co-operation is to develop in an orderly manner and the rights and the legitimate interests of all States are to be safeguarded, legal principles must be worked out and adopted governing the activities of States in the new realm of space applications. Indeed, a certain number of international legal instruments have already been adopted, the most important of which is the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

For several years the Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee have been working on, inter alia, legal principles relating to the use by States of satellites for direct television broadcasting and remote sensing of the earth. The report of the Committee describes the further progress achieved by the Legal Sub-Committee in the formulation of texts and principles relating to these two subjects, and we are gratified at this.

My country considers that the arrangements contemplated should be based on respect for the principles of the sovereignty of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs and, at the same time, should encourage international co-operation in order to promote optimum exploitation of this technology and to share the benefits of it among all countries, particularly the developing countries. With regard to direct satellite television broadcasting, in particular, we consider that it is the duty of the Committee to ensure that this new technology helps to promote friendship and understanding among peoples and contributes to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States. Similarly, it is our feeling that the principles relating to remote sensing should be in keeping with the principle of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and also over information about those resources, and that each country should be assured of unhindered access to data relating thereto obtained by means of space technology.

We note with regret that no progress has been made towards a solution of the problems which are holding up the concluding of a treaty with regard to the moon. We continue to think that the only way of promoting international co-operation is to proclaim the moon and its natural resources the common heritage of mankind and to establish an international régime governing the exploitation of its resources when this become possible.

(Mr. Ceausu, Romania)

We think that the régime governing the activities in space could and should be different from the traditional legal and political order that prevails on earth. Indeed we are convinced that, as far as outer space and the activities of man in outer space are concerned, the relations between States can be constructed on new bases, on rational principles inspired by the ideal of solidarity and determined by the common destiny and aspirations of all peoples. The work of the United Nations and the Committee on Outer Space should consequently be carried out with this noble goal in mind.

Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary): In the view of my delegation, the thorough and lucid report on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was so ably introduced this morning by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria, deserves our full attention. I should like to state at the outset that, on the whole, we consider the report quite comprehensive and useful.

We feel that this year was particularly memorable in the field of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and in this regard I wish to recall especially the twentieth anniversary of the launching into orbit of the first man-made object, the Sputnik, which was engineered by Soviet scientists and indeed marked the beginning of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In addition, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its twentieth session in Vienna, Austria, last July, and we wish to extend once again our deep appreciation to the Federal Government of Austria for having acted as host to that session in the lovely city of Vienna.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the continuation of fruitful international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space both within and outside the scope of the Committee's work. The already existing international instruments relating to space activities continue to provide an appropriate framework for interested States to take an active part in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. I wish to inform the Committee that my Government has recently deposited the instrument of ratification of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. We fervently hope that the number of States parties to that Convention will increase significantly in the very near future.

We welcome the agreement on co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes which was signed last May between the Soviet Union and the United States.

My delegation would also like to note the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on Outer Space and to express its conviction that that Treaty will soon become universal.

(Mr. Hollai, Hungary)

Having made these general remarks, I now wish to comment on some questions discussed extensively in the Legal Sub-Committee this year. We believe that the Sub-Committee, under the wise guidance of its Chairman, Mr. Wyzner of Poland, has made considerable progress during its 1977 session. We have particularly in mind the constructive debate on the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and especially the work done in formulating a tentative text of a principle on "consultation and agreements between States". I feel obliged to stress in this respect that, in my delegation's view, international direct broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites should be based on respect for the sovereign rights of States. The principle of prior consent should also be respected in one way or another if we are to reach an acceptable solution, and we think that extreme positions will not be of any help in such an endeavour. The discussion on this item in the Legal Sub-Committee was, in our view, quite encouraging, and we are looking forward with confidence to the next session.

We commend the significant progress made by the Sub-Committee in formulating six additional draft principles relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. We fully share the view, expressed also at the current session, that it is indispensable to safeguard the sovereign rights of all countries, in particular those of the developing countries, over their natural resources, as well as information on those resources.

We believe that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue its work to complete elaboration of the draft treaty relating to the moon as another priority item on its agenda.

We expect that the Legal Sub-Committee will be able to succeed in completing at its next session the discussion of some of the items allocated to it, trusting also that the members of the Sub-Committee will find a way of accommodating one another's interests without pressing too hard for a solution that obviously cannot be accepted by consensus as is desired.

(Mr. Hollai, Hungary)

In concluding my remarks on the work of the Legal Sub-Committee I should like to emphasize our readiness to support the recommendation that the Sub-Committee should base its work on the items listed in paragraph 36 of the report of the main Committee.

My delegation follows with close attention the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which is carrying out its mandate with dedication under the excellent guidance of Ambassador Carver of Australia. We believe that the Sub-Committee has made significant progress this year as well.

The detailed examination of the question of remote sensing of the earth from space was satisfactory to my delegation. We cannot fail to express our surprise, however, that the reasonable and logical proposal on classifying remote sensing data in three categories - that is, global, regional and local - based on spatial resolution, did not receive wide support. We hope that the members of the Sub-Committee will give due consideration to that proposal at the Sub-Committee's next session. My delegation lends its full support to the idea that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should include in its future programme of work the question of detecting and monitoring pollution of the environment by means of remote sensing from space.

We fully concur in the position reflected in paragraph 64 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with respect to the highly useful and desirable role of the United Nations in the practical application of space science and technology in developing countries.

We should like to endorse the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee concerning its programme of work for the fifteenth session.

In our view, a detailed consideration of the options relating to a possible United Nations conference on outer space matters will provide us next year with the clearest possible picture as to whether such an undertaking will be appropriate.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no more speakers on my list for this morning. I should like to propose to the Committee that the list of speakers on the outer space item be closed at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 22 November. If I hear no objection, I shall assume that that is acceptable.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: May I recall that the Committee decided at its 38th meeting to resume consideration this afternoon of disarmament items and to vote on the remaining draft resolutions, namely, A/C.1/32/L.28, A/C.1/32/L.37, A/C.1/32/L.3/Rev.2 and the amendments in A/C.1/32/L.38.

The Committee will continue consideration of the outer space items on Tuesday morning.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.