



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



PROVISIONAL

A/C.1/PV.1997
18 October 1974

ENGLISH

Twenty-ninth Session

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 18 October 1974, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)

Rapporteur:

Mr. COSTA LOBO (Portugal)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space:
report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /32/ (continued)
- 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 /33/ (continued)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be distributed as soon as possible.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent in quadruplicate within three working days, to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, Room LX-2332, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

AS THIS RECORD WAS DISTRIBUTED ON 21 OCTOBER 1974, THE TIME-LIMIT FOR CORRECTIONS WILL BE 24 OCTOBER 1974.

The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

74-71066/A

AGENDA ITEMS 32 AND 33

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

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/9620; A/C.1/L.1047; A/C.1/L.678, L.679 and L.680)

Mr. AZZOUT (Algeria) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I am sure that you will allow the Algerian delegation to stretch the rules slightly so that we may tell you how happy we are to see an eminent representative of a non-aligned country presiding over the work of our Committee with the efficient assistance of the other officers of the Committee.

The First Committee is once again asked to examine the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the activities it has been engaged in since the last session of the General Assembly, activities which highlight the increasingly important role that the United Nations is called upon to play in this vast new field that is of such fundamental interest, particularly for the developing countries.

Our consideration of this report gives us an opportunity to congratulate the members of the Committee on the efforts they have continued to make and that have resulted in the drafting of a convention on the registration of objects launched into space. This is a result that is indeed of prime importance, for this legal document is a contribution, in definite practical terms, to the new legislation that is gradually being built up, and forms a harmonious complement to the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects.

We are well aware that what we have here is an undertaking involving compromise, inasmuch as the principle of notifying the United Nations Secretariat whenever a space object is marked with a symbol or a registration number is accompanied by the clause providing that a revision of the convention may take place as soon as the development of space technology makes obligatory marking technically possible.

(Mr. Azzout, Algeria)

On the other hand, we are bound to note that no notable progress has been made so far this year concerning the various points of disagreement in regard to the draft treaty on the Moon, although the General Assembly, in its resolution 3132 (XXVIII), did request the Committee to give the highest priority to this matter. My delegation wishes to reaffirm, in this respect, that the draft treaty on the Moon should contain provisions to the effect that the Moon and its natural resources constitute the common heritage of mankind and that the régime adopted should be extended to all other celestial bodies.

In the case of the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for purposes of direct television broadcasting, my delegation is of the opinion that it is urgent to elaborate international instruments, in view of the development of this new technology. We have already had occasion to indicate our views with respect to the principles and the rights and duties of States which should be incorporated in such instruments. However, we should like to emphasize that, in our view, the goal of the codification of standards governing these activities should be the adoption of an international instrument which is legally binding. The elaboration of a declaration of certain principles can represent merely a first step towards the adoption of a comprehensive international convention in this respect which would duly take into account the lawful right of each State to protect itself against the intervention of third States in matters which are strictly within its national competence. That is why we encourage the Committee to continue to examine this question as a matter of priority.

Now I should like to turn to the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellite. Although this question has been examined satisfactorily in its technical and scientific aspects, its legal effects have, unfortunately, not so far been settled. The developing countries are fully aware of the benefits to be drawn from the utilization of remote sensing by the international community, and in particular in regard to the exploitation of natural resources, ecology and the fight against drought and famine. That is why it is necessary to define as early as possible, in an appropriate international instrument, the rights and obligations of States, both those which place remote sensing

(Mr. Azzout, Algeria)

satellites and gather data and those whose territories are the object of observation, proceeding from the universally recognized principle in international law of the sovereignty of States over their territories and in particular over their natural resources and over the information obtained in that respect. Accordingly it is with great interest that my delegation has welcomed the draft fundamental articles for a treaty on the remote sensing of natural resources presented by Brazil and Argentina. In particular we note the need for the appropriate consent of States over whose territories activities of remote sensing will be carried on and the right of States undergoing remote sensing to have full and unrestricted access to all the data and information obtained as a result of this process. Thus we express the hope that the Committee will give all its attention to this question, bearing in mind the considerable importance that remote sensing has for the international community and in particular for the developing countries.

In view of the enormous challenge facing us as a result of the development of space technology and its applications, it is important to proceed towards our goal, which is to ensure that the international community as a whole will be able to profit equitably from space activities, in conditions which respect the legitimate preoccupations of each State concerning its sovereignty, its development and its identity, and it is to the pursuit of this objective that we invite the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to devote all its efforts.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Algeria for the congratulations he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. CAICEDO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, your chairmanship of the Committee is an assurance of the effectiveness of our debates. My delegation extends its warm congratulations to you on your appointment to that post, which is a clear acknowledgement of your qualities as a diplomat and a jurist. We also wish to extend our good wishes to the Vice-Chairmen and to the Rapporteur, who with you, Mr. Chairman, comprise our very distinguished Bureau.

(Mr. Caicedo, Colombia)

Supplement No. 20 (A/5620), which contains the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, is an admirable piece of work, in which are crystallized the efforts of the Committee and in particular those of the Legal Sub-Committee. We wish to make public our appreciation to Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria and Mr. Wyzner of Poland, who respectively presided over the Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee and presented their reports.

The subject matter under debate is for many reasons one of the most novel and forward-looking on our agenda. Since 1958, when the General Assembly for the first time centred its attention on outer space, we have seen the succession of generations of devices and scientific discoveries and the possibility has emerged of an immediate and direct utilization by man of an almost limitless field. Specifically, a revolution has taken place in human communications. Suddenly we have seen the emergence of ways of arriving instantaneously and simultaneously in all corners of the planet. Unexpectedly, we know immeasurably more about the composition of the earth and its seas, as well as the changing climatic conditions. This means that we are able to store an increasingly accurate and comprehensive inventory in regard to natural resources. Such a statement implies that it is possible to read the potential and the economic signs of practically all countries. An advantage of this type, in a world of strong nationalism and great political tensions, gives rise to difficulties and perplexities which the law is attempting to overcome. The efforts defy our imagination to establish laws as broad, clear and flexible as the nature of the subject matter itself.

The area of communications in the case of direct television broadcasting gives rise to concrete problems of sovereignty. Every State has a right not to be the subject of propaganda or education which would be alien to its political beliefs or its national identity.

(Mr. Caicedo, Colombia)

Likewise, it should have access to the benefits that may be expected from these techniques in order to prevent disasters, to improve educational techniques, and also to increase even the most ordinary person's knowledge of the cosmos. Few tools are as promising as this one, for closing the informational and cultural gaps. The whole world, and particularly the countries of the tropical zone, urgently need the assistance of weather forecasting for their agriculture, as they also need it in the struggle to protect and enrich the human environment by preventing any useless deterioration of our physical surroundings, and by seeing to their restoration wherever they have been destroyed.

All these subjects have preoccupied my colleagues in the Committee. Thus, for instance, Argentina and Brazil have submitted a draft resolution for a treaty on remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology, which serves as an excellent basis for a debate on this question that so directly affects the interests of States and international co-operation, and which suggests the controversial possibility of a progressive provision of data open to all States. That would be, for instance, the case for the sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction, which would demand the establishment of an informational body at an international level under United Nations supervision.

Such a fund of information would also have the advantage of making impossible any selfish and abusive exploitation of a heritage which belongs to mankind as a whole. It would open up possibilities for great multinational exploits in order to meet the shortages in basic commodities. That idea is one of the many which can supplement the Argentine-Brazilian initiative in document A/C.1/1047.

The draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space deserves our praise and we will immediately confer on it our full approval by endorsing document A/C.1/L.679 on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Once adopted, that document will open the convention to the signature and ratification of all States as early as possible.

(Mr. Caicedo, Colombia)

We also view with sympathy the draft resolution on this same item in document A/C.1/L.678, whose operative paragraph 6, with its subparagraphs (a) and (b), is of tremendous importance. Subparagraph (a) recommends that the Legal Sub-Committee consider the draft treaty relating to the Moon with a view to completing it as soon as possible. Subparagraph (b) recommends that the Sub-Committee consider the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII).

A review of these problems makes very clear to us the need to reform the United Nations Charter, in order to give place to new concepts and principles which flow from the very nature of contemporary science and technology, the very science and technology that have enlarged the minds and aspirations of man.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank Ambassador Caicedo for the kind words he addressed to me and to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. RAHARIJAONA (Madagascar) (interpretation from French): It is indeed with great interest that my delegation has followed the work of the First Committee relating to the examination of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This interest, as a matter of fact, has been all the greater in view of our deep appreciation of the conduct of our work under your eminent authority, Mr. Chairman.

Our interest has two reasons: first, because Madagascar, which is a developing country, attaches special importance to all new activities of the international community which may contribute not only to encouraging friendly co-operation between all peoples, but also to increasing and equitably distributing the resources of mankind. Secondly, Madagascar, having been engaged over the past two years in the renewal and consolidation of its independence, wishes to be fully master of its national resources and wishes to concentrate its full attention on all the techniques that might help it in the identification and classification of those resources.

(Mr. Raharijaona, Madagascar)

We might add that our island, located in the middle of the Indian Ocean on the trajectory of certain spacecraft, cannot remain indifferent to the technical progress made in regard to the exploration of outer space and the utilization of satellites for the purpose of the remote sensing of resources and the broadcasting of information. This is the explanation of the interest that we have paid to the consideration of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, and we thus support the draft resolution presented on that subject.

My delegation has studied with great interest the report that has been submitted to us and wishes to pay tribute to the seriousness and the realistic spirit that attended the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites and the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites.

It did not appear to be appropriate for my delegation to engage in commentary on the document submitted to us. Several speakers, among whom there were those representing the countries which have taken part in the work of the Committee itself, have already done so brilliantly, with clarity and precision.

On the other hand, it did appear to us to be necessary to make a few comments of a general nature which reflect our preoccupations at an important moment for our Organization. This moment is important because it occurs only a few months after the special session of the General Assembly on raw materials. It will be recalled how great was the hope which was raised among developing countries when the groundwork of world action for the establishment of a new international order was laid down. It is of the highest importance that this hope should not be disappointed, in particular in regard to the peaceful uses of outer space.

Further, it appears to us important to emphasize that the time has come when we must be more aware of the fact that the new outer space law, now being elaborated, must be a collective undertaking, designed not only to govern the activities of technically advanced countries, but also to protect the interests of mankind as a whole and in particular those of the least favoured countries.

(Mr. Raharijaona, Madagascar)

The announcement of an unprecedented experiment, a joint space flight, scheduled to take place in the summer of 1975, with the participation of the Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft has for us a symbolic value. It marks the confirmation of a spirit of co-operation between the Powers which have mastered the techniques of the exploration of outer space. But this co-operation should subsequently be expressed in the form of concerted effort to give to mankind as a whole the benefits of the progress thus accomplished.

My delegation wishes to make two fundamental reflections. In the first instance, we would wish to emphasize the hopes placed by the developing countries in the progress made in regard to the peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Raharijaona, Madagascar)

Everything must be done so that in their concrete application the results of research carried out successfully by countries may contribute to helping the developing countries to recover, exploit and develop their natural resources and may provide decisive solutions for the least favoured countries which are now facing awesome food problems and which, because of this are required to make a better identification of their resources, to provide better for their future and to defend themselves more competently against climatic variations or natural catastrophes. The results of that research should also make it possible to transfer to those countries which need it, in the most favourable conditions, the technology essential for the interpretation of data, particularly for the purpose of a better identification of the national economic potential.

It is towards these fundamental goals that the United Nations system should tend, out of loyalty to the resolutions adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly.

In this connexion, the developing countries should be fully associated in the technical research activities and should have free access to the results, in particular whenever such activities or results concern their own territory.

As a developing country Madagascar attaches great importance to the progress made in regard to international legislation on outer space. In a field in which only the countries that have through their power and their level of development attained a sufficient degree of mastery of space research seem to hold sway, what other recourse have the underdeveloped countries if not that of law -- a law which will protect their legitimate interests and ensure their access to the riches that belong to mankind as a whole and that will help them in their struggle against poverty and inequality?

The second comment which my delegation wishes to present to our Committee concerns the concept of the sovereignty of the State. To be sure, in a field in which international co-operation is highly important, it might appear old-fashioned and possibly out of place to refer to the principle of the sovereignty of the State. But this concept has acquired, as far as developing countries are concerned, a special significance. Embarked upon the difficult task of strengthening economic independence, feeding the population, increasing its resources and improving its education, every country has a

(Mr. Raharijaona, Madagascar)

sovereign and unquestionable right to exercise permanent sovereignty over its natural resources and all its economic activities, to control, in accordance with the methods it deems proper, the exploitation, distribution and processing of its resources.

It is therefore not possible to accept that other Powers should be allowed, without the full participation or at least the consent of the State concerned, to make an inventory of its riches, directly or indirectly to impose any economic options on it or unduly to utilize data obtained without its authorization.

It is with this primacy of national sovereignty in view that my delegation, while gratified by the importance given to the concept of freedom of information, considers that every country engaged in activities involving the cultural advancement of its people has the duty and the right to protect itself against the intervention of a third State through the utilization of artificial satellites for the purpose of direct television.

We have been able to appreciate the dynamism and concern for efficiency which have inspired the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and here we support the draft resolution on this subject submitted to our Committee. We wish to pay a tribute to the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to express the hope that these few reflections may help them in their task.

Mr. BOATEN (Ghana): Allow me, in breach of your rule, Mr. Chairman, to add my voice to those of the speakers who have preceded me in this debate and have expressed their congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this Committee. I should like also to congratulate Mr. Bernard Neugebauer of the German Democratic Republic and Mr. Abdul Wahab Siddiq of Afghanistan, the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, and Mr. Antonio da Costa Lobo of Portugal, the Rapporteur, on their election. Speaking at this stage of the debate, I hope you will forgive me if expressions of my appreciation of your qualities both as a friend and as a colleague fail to match those already made in this forum. You can be assured, however, that any such failure is entirely due to the fact that after so many

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

have spoken before me I find it difficult to find appropriate words to reflect adequately the esteem in which I hold you. I have no doubt that, with the support of your two able Vice-Chairmen and equally able Rapporteur, the work of this Committee is in capable hands.

By General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) the Outer Space Committee was enlarged. My delegation shares the sense of satisfaction expressed by the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee in his opening statement at the 131st meeting of the Committee on 1 July this year. I say this not merely because three of the new members -- Kenya, Nigeria and the Sudan -- are sister States from Africa but also because, even more important, scientific knowledge relating to outer space and outer space technology have made spectacular advances over the past 20 years. The advances so far made in these fields have already opened new vistas which are likely to influence the human environment and change our mode of existence in the decades to come. This being the case, my delegation considers it essential that the body entrusted with the planning and execution of outer space programmes should reflect a global community of interests. That is why my delegation considers the General Assembly's decision to which I have already referred a wise one.

In my intervention on this item in 1972 I noted that the Outer Space Committee had not been able to produce a new draft convention for our consideration that year. My delegation is happy to note that the work of the Committee since then has produced a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. My delegation fully endorses the view that the draft should be recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

In the view of my delegation, however, the achievements of the Outer Space Committee should not be measured by the number of draft conventions it is able to produce for our consideration, for in our view this is only one aspect of the Committee's work. This is clearly indicated by the reports of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

My delegation has noted that in accordance with the specific instructions of the Outer Space Committee, the Legal Sub-Committee paid a great deal of attention to draft conventions relating to the Moon and registration of objects launched into outer space. As I have already noted, the efforts of the Sub-Committee were rewarded by an agreement on a draft convention on the latter subject. We have, however, noted that there was still some disagreement on the fifth preambular paragraph of the original draft. This disagreement was indicated by the square brackets enclosing the phrase "and other celestial bodies".

This, as we see it, reflects the conflicting positions taken with regard to the scope of the draft convention relating to the Moon. The conflict here continues to centre around the desirability, or otherwise, of extending the scope of the convention relating to the Moon to cover other celestial bodies. In my delegation's intervention in the debate on this subject in 1972, I expressed the view, in support of the Canadian position that "the principles laid down in the Moon treaty should also apply to other celestial bodies, until such time as the international community agrees in a future treaty that these principles should be elaborated or modified in relation to a particular celestial body" (1866th meeting, p. 57). My delegation still maintains that position. With regard to the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, however, my delegation will have no objection to the deletion of preambular paragraph 5 as was suggested by the Legal Sub-Committee. This is without prejudice to our position on the substantive issue to which it refers.

Another unresolved issue with regard to the draft convention relating to the Moon is the status of resources on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

We are aware that not all countries possess the scientific knowledge nor the technology and money to participate in the exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies. There is, however, one responsibility which all countries, including those not presently participating in outer space exploration, share in common. Our knowledge of outer space and the celestial bodies within it is still limited. With this limitation, one cannot conclude that there is no life on any of the celestial bodies higher than that on our earth. If the action of the few countries now carrying on explorations should invoke a hostile reaction from a celestial body with scientific knowledge far in advance of our own, the consequences would be borne by all of us. This might appear to some as an

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

inspiration from science fiction. But we have seen in our own lifetimes, science fictions of yesterday becoming scientific realities of today. Such a possibility therefore cannot be dismissed lightly.

Saying this is not to abdicate the responsibility which we have all tacitly assumed for outer space activities by those countries with scientific knowledge, technology and money to conduct those activities. We have assumed this responsibility because the results of those activities could bestow untold benefits on mankind. The risk we are running is, therefore, a calculated one. Under these circumstances, is it too much to ask that any benefits resulting from outer space exploration should be the universal heritage of mankind?

My delegation has noted that, owing to lack of time, the Legal Sub-Committee was unable to give consideration to the legal implications of the Earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites as was requested by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites and urged by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. This matter is of utmost importance to my delegation, and, I believe, to all delegations from developing countries. We would therefore urge the Sub-Committee to accord it some priority in its subsequent sessions. We also note, for the same reason of lack of time, that the Sub-Committee could not consider matters relating to the definition of outer space and outer space activities. We hope that the next report of the Outer Space Committee will indicate some progress in this area as well.

A look at annex III of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee indicates that there are still numerous areas of disagreement with regard to direct broadcast satellites. It is the hope of my delegation that progress towards agreement on some of the essential issues would be made at future meetings of the Sub-Committee. We say this because we are fully aware that technology of direct broadcast satellites is advancing very fast and it is essential to reach agreement on an international body of rules to regulate its operation lest we be overtaken by events.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the impressive record of work indicated by the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We have also read, with equal admiration, the Report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications, submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

The report of the United Nations Expert lists an impressive number of seminars and workshops held during 1973 and 1974. These seminars and workshops, as seen by my delegation, were designed (a) to provide opportunity for experts on outer space to exchange views, and (b) to facilitate the transfer of outer space technology and benefits to developing countries. My delegation would like to urge that these activities be continued and expanded.

The United Nations Expert on Space Applications records, in paragraph 16, of his report that he visited six countries in Africa, including my own, and notes that in his discussions with officials of those countries, "he stressed the need to have reliable consultants to advise on planning and executing specific projects involving space technology applications". (A/AC.105/126, para. 16). My delegation would urge that urgent consideration be given to this suggestion. If developing countries are to benefit from space technology applications, they should be aware of the available technology in this area and be assisted in its application to their development needs. To facilitate this, my delegation would like to suggest that it would be desirable for developing countries to establish in their own countries units to be responsible for outer space technology and its applications. This, in our view, would provide a point of contact in the developing countries and facilitate transfer of outer space technology.

We have noted the offers of fellowships by developed countries to personnel of developing countries for training in space technology. Our gratitude goes to Brazil, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States for this evidence of a willingness to share their knowledge of outer space technology with developing countries. We have noted the generous offer of Brazil and the United Kingdom "... to meet the subsistence expenses of the candidates ..." (*ibid.*, para. 24). We have also noted with deep appreciation Japan's offer to meet international travel costs, in addition to meeting subsistence expenses of candidates. We would wish to draw the attention of other developed countries to the observation contained in paragraph 24 of the United Nations Expert's report -- namely, that "There is therefore an urgent need for Member States having the requisite facilities in this area of remote sensing to offer fellowships for advanced studies to personnel from developing countries." (*ibid.*).

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

My delegation was struck by the fact that "There was no application for the fellowships offered by the United States of America," (*ibid.*, para. 22). We would urge that a system of bringing to the attention of developing countries available fellowships, together with their conditions, be devised to enable developing countries to take full advantage of these fellowships in the future.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

My delegation has studied with a great deal of interest the review by the Secretary-General of national and international co-operative space activities for the calendar year 1973. This report has been updated by statements made in this forum by a number of delegations, including the United States. We wish to record our appreciation of the increasing tempo of international co-operation in space activities. We hope that the necessary atmosphere will continue to exist for the continuation and expansion of these activities. We have found the information very valuable and we hope that the Secretary-General will continue to keep us informed.

We should also like to express our appreciation to the various United Nations agencies for the invaluable contribution they have made to outer space activities, particularly in the area of the practical applications of space technology. It is our hope that this co-operation will continue and be expanded in the decades ahead.

It seems to us, however, that there is a danger of overlapping if these activities are not properly co-ordinated. This danger is likely to increase in the future, as these activities are expanded. This is why my delegation considers that the suggestion on interagency co-ordination contained in paragraph 18 of the report of the United Nations Expert in charge of space applications deserves careful consideration. We note that hitherto interagency meetings have been held on an *ad hoc* basis. My delegation would endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 19 of the Expert's report that these meetings "be convened as a standing committee meeting on a permanent basis" (A/AC.105/126). It is our conviction that this would have the salutary effect of preventing overlapping and waste.

My delegation also endorses the recommendation that the Secretary-General undertake studies of the organizational and financial requirements of possible global and regional centres for the dissemination of remote sensing data.

We also support in principle the holding of a United Nations conference on space applications. Such a conference would give an opportunity for an exchange of views in a broader framework and serve to draw attention, particularly the attention of the developing countries, to the benefits of outer space technology for development.

(Mr. Boateng, Ghana)

As regards the timing of such a conference, my delegation would like to leave it for the consideration of the Outer Space Committee. If the conference is to be useful, its timing should take into account the stage reached in outer space technology and should be preceded by careful preparation, including relevant documentation on information relating to the subject.

My delegation fully supports the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679, and we should like our country to be included in the list of sponsors of those draft resolutions. We also do not see any objection to the substance of the amendment to the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678 proposed this morning by the delegation of the Philippines.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation for the work which has been accomplished by the Outer Space Committee as indicated in its report (A/9620). There is no doubt that by its work the Committee is contributing in no small measure to the development of the world, both in this decade and in the decades to come.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Ghana for the very warm and friendly remarks he addressed to me and for his congratulations to the other officers of the Committee.

The Committee has taken due note that Ghana has joined the sponsors of the draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679.

Mr. WAPENYI (Uganda): Mr. Chairman, as this is the first time that my delegation has spoken in the Committee this year, allow me to offer you and, through you, to the other officers of the Committee, well-deserved congratulations for the manner in which, as a team, you have guided us in our deliberations in this Committee.

As one of the last speakers on the items now under consideration my statement at this stage will be very brief.

My delegation believes that the exploration and potential uses of outer space for peaceful purposes holds great promise for a developing country like Uganda. Limited as we are in technical know-how that is essential for an appreciation of the work being done, we can only at this stage give political guidelines which, we believe, we can expect to receive the support of most members, for drawing up rules that will govern the co-operation of all States in outer space activities.

(Mr. Wapenyi, Uganda)

Preceding speakers have noted with satisfaction -- and my delegation wishes to join them -- that there is a growing consensus which places emphasis on the need for all outer space activities to be under the umbrella of collective responsibility. Allow me also to join other speakers in appreciating the work done so far by the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee in drawing up a widely acceptable draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space.

As the representatives of a developing country, my delegation is hopeful that this kind of international co-operation, rather than a national, individualistic approach, is the best answer for reaching widely acceptable standards and rules to govern our activities in outer space.

My delegation is very much aware of the potential benefits that can accrue from the proper use of direct satellite broadcasts. We believe that such broadcasts have an important role to play in the future, provided such a role is not under the monopoly or ideological domination of one or more technically advanced States. Programmes of an international nature by the United Nations or its related agencies, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO and WHO, can and should be encouraged in our efforts to enlighten the masses and to spread education to the greatest number.

In our experience in Uganda, in co-operation with our sister Republics of Tanzania and Kenya, such broadcasts as have been carried out have been under the umbrella of the East African Community. Through our experience, we are very much aware that the expenses per pupil for educational purposes can be considerably reduced if and when a given programme is beamed to schools and other educational institutions by using such broadcasts. We have at the same time had negative reactions to some of these broadcasts in our experience so far. We have had occasion to reject programmes which seek to enhance or perpetuate certain imperialistic tendencies for the purposes of materially enriching the few at the expense of the many. These have been normal broadcasts, and we believe that when satellite broadcasting becomes a reality in future such abuses will be on the increase unless they are controlled.

(Mr. Wapenyi, Uganda)

We believe, therefore, that direct satellite television broadcasting, as it will be used in the future, will be useful to the greatest number of States within a given area. As an example, we believe that if such an area group or regional group as the Organization of African Unity finds such a programme or such programmes acceptable, that should be encouraged. We have been led to believe by those who have the technical know-how that it might not be feasibly possible to beam direct programmes to a given State if a neighbouring State did not accept it. However, there are wide areas where more acceptable programmes could be prepared which would receive the support of a given region or group.

Last year some of us who were here had the pleasure of being issued with some data, through the courtesy of the United States Government and others, that had a bearing on remote sensing programmes. We believe that this is another field where a regional approach should be encouraged and welcomed. We believe also that remote sensing activities, in conformity with internationally acceptable standards, could play a big role in the future of our regions, not only in Africa but in most developing countries, especially in dealing with problems of a regional or global nature, in such fields or problems as locust control and the spread of certain animal and plant diseases or epidemics, to enable governments in the particular region to take collective regional measures to combat such epidemics, which in many instances result in widespread mass starvation.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to emphasize the need for international co-operation in outer space activities, because outer space and the environment affect all of us equally. Present trends to secure such co-operation through the United Nations and its related agencies or bodies augurs well, and we can only hope that the trend will be reinforced, at the expense of national differences which tend to divide mankind.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Uganda for the congratulations he addressed to the Officers of the Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON-FLORES (Brazil) (interpretation from Spanish): Speaking for one of the delegations which co-sponsored the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678, I should like to say that we have no objection to the inclusion in the text of that draft resolution of the proposal made by the representative of the Philippines.

On the other hand, regarding the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.679, which we also co-sponsored, my delegation would like once again to state its view that the results achieved with regard to registration and matriculation of objects launched into outer space, included in article V of the draft convention, represent a compromise. My delegation has accepted it with that understanding and on the understanding that the item on registration and matriculation of objects launched into outer space will remain on the agenda of the Committee.

Mr. KUCHEL (United States of America): I asked to speak again simply to state, very briefly, the support of my country for the two draft resolutions now before the Committee, which had not been introduced when I spoke earlier this week.

I have earlier expressed the satisfaction which the United States feels on the completion of the draft registration convention and we now, of course, favour its approval by the General Assembly.

The draft "omnibus" resolution includes many important provisions which were negotiated at considerable length by a wide variety of States with many differing interests. We believe that this draft resolution contains generally acceptable compromises on the subjects with which we are dealing in the arena of activities in outer space. The United States has expressed its views on those several subjects in the past and I shall not attempt to reiterate them now. I should, however, like to mention the following points.

The United States is highly gratified at the growing interest among States in seeking new ways in which the exploration and the use of outer space could produce benefits for the welfare of all of us here on earth. It is our view that increased efforts within the United Nations to apply those benefits must focus first of all on ensuring that such programmes are conducted with the maximum efficiency and effectiveness possible.

(Mr. Kuchel, United States)

Finally, I should like to note that the United States supports the recommendations for the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee contained in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678, within the context of the views which my country expressed regarding the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII).

With those understandings, the United States favours the adoption of the draft "omnibus" resolution.

Mr. PALMER (Sierra Leone): Permit me, Mr. Chairman, this being the first statement I have made in this Committee, to extend congratulations to you and the other Officers of the Committee on your election to office.

In the short time that I have been here I have been greatly impressed by your serene dignity and I have no doubt that your experience in United Nations matters and your well-known competence in handling the many problems besetting our Organization will greatly assist this Committee as it forges its way through the very many important items it has before it. I wish to assure you that my delegation will co-operate with you and the other officers of the Committee to the best of its ability.

My delegation has co-sponsored both draft resolutions introduced by the representative of Austria yesterday because it is convinced that all nations, large or small, developed or underdeveloped, have a responsibility to see to it that the outer space of our planet earth is utilized in the best interests of mankind.

My delegation first of all congratulates the Legal Sub-Committee on its efforts in preparing the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. We believe that it is necessary to identify all objects launched into space from earth, if for no other reason than the simple one that we have to distinguish our spacecraft from ones that may come from other planets. My delegation therefore urges all countries in the spacecraft business to become parties to the convention and to adhere to its obligations.

The Legal Sub-Committee's failure to conclude a draft treaty relating to the Moon suggests strongly, and sadly, the conflict of interests involved in the exploration of outer space and does not give much support to the promising

(Mr. Palmer, Sierra Leone)

picture painted for us by those in the space business of the advantages of using space objects for man's development. We realize that the Moon is the first planet outside earth into which man has successfully penetrated and on which he has set foot. That is why we consider it most urgent that the differences preventing the conclusion of a treaty on the Moon should be resolved without delay.

(Mr. Palmer, Sierra Leone)

We support strongly the idea that a treaty relating to the Moon should be concluded, for we would hate to see space exploration become another form of the colonization from which my continent has suffered and is still suffering.

We would not, for example, like to see the Moon, or any other planet for that matter, being cut up into little colonies, as Africa was. And this can be averted if an agreement is reached now among the exploring nations on what relationship should exist among them and among mankind as a whole concerning the Moon and other planets.

We have listened with hope to assurances given here and elsewhere by space-exploring nations of the many advantages developing countries, especially, will derive from space exploration. We note particularly that the use of earth satellites for direct radio and television broadcasting can avert natural disasters such as droughts and floods, and can contribute significantly to agricultural programmes.

Being so close to a region which was recently struck by a devastating drought that destroyed many lives and caused untold damage to agriculture, my Government is willing to support any meaningful programme that will assure continued existence and progress for the underprivileged. This may sometimes be for us a great sacrifice, for we are not unaware of the risks involved in accepting a system of deliberate interference.

For this reason, my delegation therefore considers it of the utmost importance to remind the exploring nations of their responsibility to use the information they obtain and distribute purely for development purposes, and not for changing Governments.

Draft resolution A/C.1/L.678 reflects our concern and our hopes, and for this reason we have co-sponsored it and will vote for it, and also for draft resolution A/C.1/L.679.

My delegation urges the Committee to adopt the two draft resolutions before us in documents A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679, as they have been amended by the representative of the Philippines this morning.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Sierra Leone for his kind words with regard to me and the other officers of the Committee.

I wish to announce that the delegation of Niger has added its name to those of the sponsors of the two draft resolutions appearing in documents A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679.

Mr. YAGUIBOU (Upper Volta) (interpretation from French): I am speaking, Mr. Chairman, for the first time in the debates of our Committee at the end of a long series of speeches, and even though the provisions of rule 112 of our rules of procedure excuse me from doing so, I cannot resist the temptation to express to you the heartfelt congratulations of the delegation of Upper Volta on your brilliant election to the Chairmanship of our Committee.

Speaking as I do at the end of our debates, I shall be brief for two reasons: first of all, because you have urged us to be brief and my delegation wishes to co-operate with you fully throughout our work; and secondly because at this stage of our deliberations, there is little left to be said after the highly scientific observations that have been made by so many distinguished speakers who have preceded me.

One might be tempted to wonder how the problems of outer space can be of any concern to a country like Upper Volta, one of the least favoured of the least developed countries. But to tackle the problem from that point of view would, in the opinion of my delegation, betray an incomplete approach towards a vast domain, a very complex one, without doubt, but one which, in certain of its aspects, opens up a highly encouraging prospect for the economically and socially developing countries. And it is with this dual aspect of economic and social growth in mind that my delegation would wish to make its modest contribution to an undertaking that could constitute the hope of tomorrow for the inhabitants of our planet, provided that we, who are its authors, are moved by humanitarian and peace-loving motives.

(Mr. Yaguibou, Upper Volta)

I have no intention whatsoever of making another analysis of the legal implications of document A/9620. Many delegations who have preceded me here during the last several days have already done so with great competence and eloquence. I shall therefore limit myself to supporting and fully associating myself with the relevant proposals made by them.

My delegation wishes, however, to express the particular interest it feels in the content of the report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, contained in document A/AC.105/125. This aspect of the use of outer space for practical purposes for the international community is of special concern to my delegation in so far as the results of research undertaken in that sphere may contribute to the solution of a present problem, namely that of the drought in the Sahel.

The question of the remote sensing of the earth by satellite has been in the forefront of our Assembly's attention for a number of years. If tangible results reflected in concrete applications have not yet fallen within our grasp, we must nevertheless recognize that considerable progress has been made. My Government attributes primary importance to this matter, because as a developing country, we are aware that the benefits of all kinds to be derived therefrom are still hardly to be guessed at. The field of application of this technique is indeed varied, for, in the opinion of the experts, it ranges from the exploration of natural resources -- mineral, forestry, marine, agricultural -- to analysis of climatic data and the animal and vegetable environment.

During the course of the visit he made to the United States in October 1973, General Sangoulé Lamizana, President of the Republic of Upper Volta, had the opportunity to go to the Goddard centre, not far from Washington, where he was able to see concrete evidence of the progress so far achieved in the ERTS programme under the auspices of NASA. Thanks to the photographic data furnished by the ERTS satellite, we have been able to observe, from a study of the chromatic documents, the extent to which it has been possible to bring out the potentialities -- for geophysics, hydrology and grazing -- of the Sahelian sub-region.

(Mr. Yaguibou, Upper Volta)

We are therefore fully convinced that the remote sensing of the earth will be an instrument of future service to the poorer countries and particularly those of the Sahel, in their struggle against drought and famine.

The Governments of the Sahelian countries, including Upper Volta, welcome international co-operation in the matter of the remote sensing of the earth, even though they cannot be regarded as space Powers. To illustrate this, I need only mention the approaches made to the American Government by several Sahelian Governments -- Mali, Niger and my country, Upper Volta -- for the purpose of urging the promoters of the ERTS programme to intensify their exploration from outer space of the Sudan-Sahelian region.

The United States Government has agreed in full to our wishes. Thanks to these contacts, the Office of International Affairs of NASA has been able to make available to the authorities of Liptako-Gourmah -- Upper Volta, Mali and Niger -- complete information concerning the Sahelian region. The information contained in the preliminary reports that that Government has kindly furnished us, shows highly encouraging prospects for the research undertaken by our countries to resolve the problem of drought.

(Mr. Yaguitcu, Upper Volta)

We are thus in possession of specific data on the biological, pedological, hydrological and climatic aspects of the region; but in order to achieve that, the active co-operation of the Sahelian countries and the authorities of NASA was required.

On behalf of my delegation, I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate to the Government of the United States of America my appreciation for the excellent co-operation we received both from NASA and its subsidiary agencies. But the United States is not the only country with which Upper Volta maintains and cultivates co-operative relations in this field. Indeed, for many years, my Government has favoured the request of the French Government that a satellite observation centre be built in Ouagadougou, the capital of Upper Volta. Located as it is in the central part of west Africa, Upper Volta is particularly indicated and appropriate for that kind of activity.

We would therefore welcome most fervently an ever greater intensification of such co-operation, but co-operation based, above all, on scrupulous respect for our sovereignty. We are very much aware of the inequality of this sort of co-operation by virtue of our technological inferiority, which is why we consider that the Legal Sub-Committee should elaborate an appropriate legal framework within which this necessary co-operation and the fundamental interests of non-space Powers can be reconciled.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Upper Volta for the kind words that he was so good as to address to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. ELIAS (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): I asked to speak in order to submit to this First Committee a suggestion relating to participation in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of countries interested in its work and in participating in it but which are not members of the Outer Space Committee.

My delegation, as well as others that have taken part in the debate, have referred to the desirability of facilitating the participation of those interested countries in such activities, which is in keeping with the purposes for which the Committee was established, and with the very nature of the problems occupying its attention.

There are different ways of meeting this wish of various countries. One of them -- the most obvious, but perhaps insufficient -- would be for the Committee to allow one or several countries particularly interested in a given question to participate in one or more meetings, without the right to vote, which is always possible pursuant to the rules and the practices of the United Nations.

Another approach would be to re-enlarge the membership in due course. Although the membership has already been enlarged on two occasions, it could still be enlarged a third time.

Another approach, one which would best be in keeping with rule 113, among those recommended by the Committee on the Rationalization of Work and adopted by the General Assembly in 1971, would be the periodic, partial changing of the members of the Committee, which should be the normal procedure in subsidiary bodies, particularly in the case of activities of universal interest and in a body with a standing mandate.

Still another approach would be that of voluntary participation in the Committee's work, each country having equal rights, mainly for the purpose of participating in decisions taken by consensus. This is a system that has been applied in certain ad hoc committees by decision of the Assembly.

(Mr. Elias, Spain)

Finally, there is a series of options that deserve to be studied with the goodwill which the importance of the item requires, with a view to achieving greater effectiveness for the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary organs.

It would have been my wish, and perhaps that of other representatives, that such a review or study of the ways of streamlining participation in the Committee had somehow been reflected in the draft resolution before us, sponsored by a group of countries which, to a large extent, is the same as the membership of the Committee. None the less, at this stage of the debate, I should not like to put forward proposals which might, for lack of time to carry out the necessary consultations, complicate or jeopardize the achievement of consensus on this draft resolution. For this reason, speaking now on behalf of the delegations of Colombia, Philippines, Peru, Tunisia, Turkey and Spain, I should like, along the lines of what other delegations such as that of Romania have stated, to suggest to this Committee -- and I would request our Chairman to be so kind as to say a few words on behalf of the Committee in this regard -- that it take note of the options to which I have referred, so that they may be taken up during the thirtieth Assembly session in the light of new developments.

I leave that wish in your hands, Mr. Chairman, thanking you in advance on behalf of my delegation and the other interested delegations.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): We have just heard the suggestions made by the representative of Spain in connexion with the possible participation in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of countries not members of that Committee, and the request that this Committee take note of those suggestions.

(The Chairman)

I consider that this Committee might very well take due note of and examine those proposals and the various possibilities in that connexion during the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. As the representative of Spain said, he makes those suggestions on behalf of Spain, and the delegations of Colombia, Philippines, Peru, Tunisia and Turkey.

There is an old legal dictum which says that one acts according to one's interests. For my part, I would suggest that interested delegations raise this question again at the next General Assembly session, when I am certain it will be most favourably received.

I should now like to announce that the delegation of Upper Volta has joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.178 and A/C.1/L.179.

I now call on the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. LAURENT (Food and Agriculture Organization): The current world shortage of food and raw materials is one of the most pressing problems facing policy-makers and planners today. The matter is to be considered in depth at the United Nations World Food Conference in Rome, now only two weeks away.

Many representatives in this Committee have referred to the world food shortage in connexion with the growing expectation that the applications of space science and technology, mainly through remote sensing, can help to alleviate it with increasingly accurate land and water resource inventories, a more meaningful monitoring of production and a more effective control of yield-reducing factors. Indeed FAO believes that, while this technology is in many ways still experimental, enough has already been accomplished to emphasize its importance as a basic input to national and regional programmes.

Various documents issued by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including document A/9620 now before us, give a picture of the machinery that FAO three years ago set in motion.

At FAO headquarters a nucleus of professional officers, in servicing proposed and on-going projects, are making modest but effective use of hardware facilities, relying on imagery appropriate to field requirements. Several Governments, including those of Canada, whose advances in evolving crop information systems FAO has noted with satisfaction, the Netherlands and the United States, as well as bodies such as NASA and TELESPIAZIO, which has provided the services of a specialist, and universities like Purdue, have given support to these FAO operations.

It would appear that the airing of shortfalls in the statements of some representatives from Africa reflect adequately the character of the initial stage of this emerging technique in its regional applications. Still, progress is undeniable. In the important field of group training, for instance, the successful completion of the United Nations/FAO Seminar on Remote Sensing, held in Cairo last September and attended by 32 participants, augurs well for that which, subject to the FAO Council's financial approval in November, will be held during 1975 in Indonesia and which will relate, among other things, to agriculture, forestry, hydrology, fishery and land use.

In so far as promising areas of concrete assistance on the regional level are concerned, it should be noted that, besides locust control, new areas are being identified. These include possible means of reducing desert encroachment, as indicated by the representative of Japan and just now by the representative of Upper Volta, and possible ground control measures for animal health hazards, such as the tse-tse fly. In regard to its future regional activities FAO will maintain its close working relationships with the office of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations and the Expert on Space Applications and will await with interest the recommendations expected from the four studies required of the Secretary-General and listed in paragraph 30 of document A/9620.

At country level, the responses to the questionnaire reproduced in annex IV of the document before the Committee will undoubtedly facilitate analyses of the needs of Member States. Already the 59 field projects with a remote-sensing component, for which FAO is Executing Agency, attest to the current acceptance of the technique as a national tool. Still, as stressed by many in this Committee, and particularly by the representative of Ghana this afternoon, proper transfer of know-how to nationals is an essential guarantee of the long-term success of these different activities. Consequently it is receiving, to the extent feasible, the attention it deserves. However, financial restrictions, which are a most common predicament in the difficult times in which we live, have too often prevented the completion of a satisfactory number of planned country visits and technical consultations for requested advice at ministerial and other levels. Nevertheless, a limited number of such visits took place last year to countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Finally, the important principles upon which many countries would like to agree with respect to the collection, use and dissemination of remotely sensed data have been noted. While FAO, as indicated before, is ready to expand its preliminary organizational proposals on a satellite information system suited to global needs, it will offer further suggestions within the limits which the Committee itself and the General Assembly will have found acceptable.

(Mr. Suleiman, Libyan Arab Republic)

the use of space technology for peaceful purposes and to use it in order to better the economic, social and educational conditions of many people, particularly in developing countries which suffer from a serious shortage in this field.

The use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting is one of the important issues which require an international agreement or convention to be prepared rapidly so that we may be able to make use of space technology in the spheres of economic and social development. And this should be done within a proper legal framework which would enable us to overcome the social, legal and technical problems which are related to this subject, particularly the question of respect of the sovereign rights of each State of and non-interference in its internal affairs.

The representative of Uganda has referred to some of those problems. We noted what was contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, namely that progress has been made with regard to five principles connected with this important subject. My delegation hopes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be able, at its forthcoming meeting, to reach a draft agreement or draft agreements on organizing the use of space technology in direct television broadcasting in accordance with the General Assembly resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh session. In that connexion, we welcome operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution A/C.1/L.678.

We are following with interest another subject which is being studied by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: the question of remote sensing of natural resources by space technology. We consider this subject as extremely important, requiring a careful study. Also required is the speedy conclusion of an international agreement that would organize international co-operation in this sphere. The great progress achieved in the application of outer space technology and ensuring its use for remote sensing of the resources of the earth is one of the great accomplishments of the human mind, in mastering technology and making it serve mankind.

But this scientific and technological progress should be used within the proper international framework so that we may be able to avoid unnecessary problems.

(Mr. Suleiman, Libyan Arab Republic)

We have to respect the sovereignty of countries which are subject to such experiments and prior consent must be obtained before any activities take place within the framework of the boundaries of these countries. This is in addition to the fact that the country concerned should benefit from the data made available through such activities, and that information should not be communicated to any third party without the prior consent of the parties concerned.

If we do not take these sensitive matters into consideration when preparing an agreement in this connexion, then we are bound to face endless problems which may impede international efforts to benefit from the conspicuous progress made in the field of space technology.

It is the right of all States to adopt effective measures to defend their sovereignty and preserve their natural resources. In that connexion, my delegation welcomes the draft convention on remote sensing of natural resources presented by the representative of Brazil, on 17 October, on behalf of Brazil and Argentina, which is to be found in document A/C.1/L.1047, and referred to in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678.

My delegation also welcomes operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution which calls on the Secretary-General to undertake studies on the organizational and financial requirements for remote sensing systems. It considers that this is a valuable step in the efforts aimed at providing suitable international framework for remote sensing activities.

We also agree with the opinion expressed in paragraph 14 that the work of the Sub-Committee should be supplemented by more studies on organizational and financial aspects of remote sensing of the earth, and that they should be accompanied by a study by the Legal Sub-Committee on the legal aspects of this subject, and that this matter should be given priority.

We also take this opportunity to express our deep thanks to the co-sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678. We shall vote in favour of it.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Libya for the congratulations that he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

We are now beginning the process of voting on the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679. We shall take up first the draft resolution in A/C.1/L.678, sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany and others. At this morning's meeting the representative of the Philippines submitted for the consideration of the First Committee a suggestion involving the insertion, immediately after paragraph 27, of a paragraph 28, the text of which reads as follows:

(The Chairman)

(Spoke in English)

"Reiterates its request to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch, and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, and looks forward to its report thereon in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2914 (XXVII) and 3182 (XXVIII)."

(continued in Spanish)

The representative of Austria said this morning that he accepted the inclusion of this paragraph, and subsequently other delegations which are also sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678, said they had no objection to its inclusion. It is also my understanding that this paragraph is very similar to paragraph 26 of resolution 3182 (XXVIII) adopted last year. May I take it, therefore, that the Committee does not object to the inclusion, as paragraph 28 of the draft resolution, of the text of the proposal made by the Philippines?

If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The general debate left me with the impression that there was no opposition to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.678. If no delegation requests a formal vote, therefore, I shall take it that there are no objections to its unanimous adoption.

If there is no objection, I shall consider that the draft resolution, as amended, is adopted.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): We will now turn to consideration of the second draft resolution, which appears in document A/C.1/L.679, concerning international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

In his statement during the general debate the representative of the United Kingdom suggested that in the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, in the second, third and fourth preambular paragraphs, the dates of the Treaty, Agreement and Convention be added. Since this proposal tends to clarify and give more detail on the reference texts, I assume there will be no objection to accepting the United Kingdom proposal.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): In the same statement the United Kingdom representative suggested that in the last sentence of article VI of the draft convention the word "object" be replaced by the word "subject". Bearing in mind that it may be assumed that the United Kingdom delegation is the supreme authority here with regard to the use of the English language and that this applies only to the English text, I trust there will be no objection to this change.

If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

Mr. KANTAR (Lebanon) (interpretation from Arabic): This is merely a formal point concerning translation into Arabic. In draft resolution A/C.1/L.679, in the twelfth line on the second page of the French text, there is the expression "accueille favorablement". In the Arabic text the word used is a translation of the word "commends" in the English text. We should like this to be replaced by the Arabic translation of the French expression.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I presume this difficulty arises from the fact that we are using Arabic for the first time and that there will be no objection to the Arabic text being corrected in the manner requested by the representative of Lebanon.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mine is a similar comment with reference to the Russian text of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.679. In the first operative paragraph of the English text the word "commends" is used. I would suggest that in the Russian text, instead of the word used, which means "proposes", the Russian translation of "commends" be used.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I think we will have to turn to the sources in this case too, and no one is better authorized than the Soviet delegation to adapt the Russian text to the original. Therefore, the correction requested by the Soviet representative will be borne in mind and will be acted upon appropriately.

After the clarifications just made by the representatives of Lebanon and the Soviet Union, if there are no objections, I shall take it that the Committee also adopts unanimously the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.679.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I now call on the final speaker on my list for an explanation of his position.

Mr. GUVEN (Turkey) (interpretation from French): The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.678 concerning the future work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has just been adopted by consensus. Our hope is that the Committee may be able next year to present further draft treaties or conventions relating to outer space. We wish to express to all the members taking part in that Committee our hope for success in their work.

And now, I should like to add that we consider outer space as the domain of mankind as a whole. This, as a matter of fact -- unless I am mistaken -- has been expressed in one way or another by all the preceding speakers.

I should also like to draw attention to the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution where co-operation is referred to. In our opinion, this clearly shows that co-operation in the broadest sense between States -- at least between States concerned in this field -- would impart greater significance to the work of the Committee on Outer Space; and we believe that this could be achieved, to a large extent, if the States concerned could take part precisely on a footing of equality. This is the reason we share the views expressed on this subject by the representative of Spain in his speech made a few moments ago. And we hope that this suggestion will also be borne in mind in the course of the future work of the Committee.

(Mr. Guven Turkey)

I would like further to ask, in view of the fact that outer space belongs to humanity as a whole, why is it that draft resolutions on this subject should not also belong to the 138 States Members of the United Nations? I think that this could be made possible if draft resolutions on this subject were open to suggestions of all Member States before they were submitted to the Secretariat. This might give rise perhaps to certain additional difficulties in the achievement of compromise and consensus, but we feel that such compromise and consensus would be stronger and more reassuring.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): We have thus come to the end of the consideration of items 32 and 33 of our agenda relating to outer space.

I wish to thank all of you very specially for your kind co-operation to me which has enabled us to carry out our work in a spirit of great harmony, with great efficiency, and in time.

We will continue our work on Monday at 10.30 a.m., when the Committee will take up the 12 items concerning disarmament. I have only to thank you once again for your co-operation and to wish you a very happy weekend, ready, as I said, to take up the work of the Committee in the same way in which we have discharged our responsibilities during the course of this week.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.