United Nations A/C.4/70/SR.10

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
30 November 2015

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 10th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 October 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Medan (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 53: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/70/20) (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Saleh** (Iraq) said that his Government had launched its first satellite in 2014, with funding from the Italian Government and assistance from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). International cooperation had helped with capacity-building in Iraq. In particular, his delegation wished to thank the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Iranian partners for their support, which had been particularly useful with regard to sandstorms and desertification. The Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia was a useful source of support.

2. Problems with the country's dam structures made space-based early-warning systems vital. Research into hydrological resources was ongoing, and a civilian website provided information on natural disasters and humanitarian tracking of displaced populations. All countries required access to space, irrespective of their capacities and level of development. Iraq firmly condemned the militarization of and placement of weapons in space, which, as part of the common heritage of humanity, belonged to no one and should only be used for peaceful purposes. His delegation welcomed the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) on improving the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and promoting international cooperation.

3. **Mr. Shahabudin** (Malaysia) said that space-based technologies were key in ensuring the successful implementation of United Nations initiatives in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development in its various dimensions. The data collected by space satellites provided vital input for decision-making processes in those fields. As space-based technologies required significant human capital and large financial investments, however, his delegation encouraged developed countries and relevant international organizations and agencies to assist developing countries with capacity-building in space science and technology.

4. Malaysia had recently launched a third privately-owned MEASAT communication satellite, and during the meeting of the Space Environment Utilization Working Group at the 21st Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSA-21) held in late 2014, it had been asked to lead two research projects on plants in microgravity. As part of global disaster management under that Agency's Sentinel Asia initiative, Malaysia continued to serve as a data-analysis node for the satellites of countries including Thailand, India, Korea and Japan, and thanked Japan for its support. Malaysia stood ready to give its full commitment and cooperation to the members of COPUOS to ensure the success of space initiatives.

5. **Mr. Krasna** (Israel) said that motivation, commitment and creativity were vital in using space to deal with nature's challenges, improve communication between people and find ways to help solve humanity's greatest problems. With the huge cost of space research and development, the leaders in the field should move beyond national competitiveness and continue cooperation with other nations, academia and the private sector.

6. The Israel Space Agency was focused on peaceful outer space cooperation and innovative scientific projects based on international collaboration. In that vein, the Agency had signed various cooperation agreements, including with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A main objective of Israel's national civil space programme was to become one of the five leading space nations through international cooperation and partnerships.

7. Israel had hosted the 66th International Astronautic Congress in 2015, and was pleased that participants had included representatives from Arab and Muslim countries including from the Persian Gulf, Jordan, Egypt and Indonesia. Israel also had ongoing space cooperation with the European Union, France and Italy, and had acceded to the United Nations Platform of Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER Initiative), which included Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) images and expertise on disaster management. Agreements between Israel and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (the Office) were also pending.

8. In addition to working towards launching a spacecraft to the moon, Israel was also making a communications satellite available for Facebook to provide Internet access to 14 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa. No one had territorial claims in space, which belonged to everyone; it was part of the solution that would enable new discoveries and improve people's lives.

9. **Ms. Sayed** (Pakistan) said that the space industry was characterized by regional and international cooperation. The Government of Pakistan was developing the latest technology for geospatial applications, including with satellites designed by students from 24 national universities under the Pakistan National Student Satellite Program (PNSSP). The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), the national space agency of Pakistan, was planning an international conference on space in 2016, co-sponsored by ISNET. The Conference would cover natural resource management, urban and rural planning, health services and education, sustainable agriculture, environmental monitoring, telecommunication services, and disaster risk assessment, management and mitigation.

10. Pakistan was participating in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as well as in discussions of a draft International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, and called for such initiatives to be conducted in an inclusive manner under the auspices of the United Nations. Her Government was also a participant in that Subcommittee's Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, and recognized the need for nuclear power for interplanetary space missions and deep-space exploration.

11. Her delegation supported all international instruments relating to space debris mitigation. However, as emerging spacefaring nations were developing countries that lacked the financial and technological resources to comply with the COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, she called for consideration of ways to assist those countries in that regard.

12. As a State Party to the five core United Nations treaties on outer space, Pakistan consistently opposed the militarization and weaponization of outer space, and was concerned about a possible space arms race. Developing countries required more training and capacity-building on the peaceful uses of outer space. The benefits of outer space technologies should be made available for all humanity.

13. **Mr. Elmodir** (Libya) called on Member States to work with the existing legal regimes governing outer space on matters including militarization and protecting the space environment from pollution. Libya also called for the development of instruments on the use of outer space to bridge gaps in those regimes, including the lack of a clear definition of outer space, as well as to strengthen international cooperation for peaceful uses. Space opportunities should be equally available to all States, irrespective of their level of scientific progress. All States should comply with the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the Outer Space Treaty), including the non-appropriation of celestial bodies. The issue of space debris required the ongoing development of guidelines for mitigation, and COPUOS should develop binding rules on space debris.

14. Increased cooperation was needed between spacefaring nations and countries aspiring to use outer space for peaceful uses. There should be no exploitation or monopolization of information on the security of earth or space, because of the risk of natural disasters. Space sciences were also essential for early-warning systems in such areas as climate change and desertification. There should be no political considerations in any of those areas. Libya was satisfied with the work of the UN-SPIDER Initiative in that connection.

15. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that his delegation supported measures to preserve outer space as a zone of peaceful development, prevent its militarization and promote international cooperation. His Government urged those countries with well-developed exploration capacities to share their knowledge.

16. As a COPUOS Observer, El Salvador had welcomed two technical missions under the UN-SPIDER Initiative. The first mission had been designed to strengthen the capacities of national authorities through the use of satellite information for comprehensive risk management and disaster response, and had resulted in his Government's National Climate

Change Plan. The second had provided technical assistance to national authorities in terms of cooperation, disaster management, climate change, and remote sensing, which had generated a series of maps and procedures for drought analysis.

17. Although El Salvador welcomed the proposal from the European Union and other countries to draft an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, his delegation considered it vital to undertake multilateral and inclusive negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations, thus ensuring that outer space would be used in accordance with the four pillars of common use, equal use, peaceful purposes and international cooperation.

18. As a Party to the Outer Space Treaty, El Salvador reaffirmed that outer space was part of the heritage of humanity to be explored and used by all States irrespective of their level of economic and scientific development. El Salvador aspired to membership in COPUOS, and had therefore actively participated in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of that body.

19. **Ms. Diaz** (Philippines) said that it was essential to promote equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space activities, irrespective of social, economic or scientific development, and to strengthen international cooperation to assist developing countries with enhanced means of implementation through finance, technology transfer and capacity-building. Because of the Philippines' experience with natural disasters, her Government truly valued the role of space technology applications to enhance disaster risk prevention, and was investing in space-related technologies for hazard mapping as well as weather and risk forecasting. One example was the Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (Project NOAH) that enhanced current geo-hazard vulnerability maps as part of the Philippine Development Plan.

20. The Philippines had chaired a High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Dialogue at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in 2015. Her delegation was pleased that the resulting Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction highlighted the use of innovations in space information along with information and communication technology, as well as enhanced international cooperation on access to and use of space-based technologies and technology transfers. The Conference had also launched a global partnership for Earth observation, and the Philippines thanked the Office and UN-SPIDER in that regard.

21. An International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities was necessary to further transparency and confidence-building measures, and to improve international legal mechanisms. Developing countries should participate fully in that process within the United Nations framework. Space debris risk mitigation and responsibility were of the utmost importance, and her delegation opposed any further militarization of outer space.

22. **Mr. Mana** (Cameroon) said that his delegation welcomed the significant contribution of COPUOS and the Office in promoting the peaceful use of outer space for all countries and international cooperation, particularly in terms of capacity-building for developing countries.

23. Outer space activities could assist sustainable development for all countries and regions, particularly in terms of climate change, natural disasters and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. However, that scenario was tainted by growing space militarization and the increase in space debris. Cameroon called upon the international community to consider in greater depth the use of outer space, which was part of the heritage of humanity. It was vital to strengthen regional and interregional cooperation to ensure the rule of law, in the form of rules on protecting the peaceful nature of outer space, so that space activities benefited all peoples irrespective of their economic or scientific development. His delegation applauded the United Nations and its work on the five main relevant Treaties.

24. Cameroon encouraged COPUOS to play a more decisive role in disseminating peaceful uses of outer space, including strengthening the principles and legal instruments that ensured a fair and non-discriminatory use of space applications in accordance with the Committee's 2014 report (A/70/20), as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/85. Cameroon aspired to be an emerging country in the field, and as such subscribed to the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the peaceful uses of outer space and international cooperation that took into account the needs of developing countries.

25. **Mr. Leonidchenko** (Russian Federation) said that the work of COPUOS and its Subcommittees had been vital for practical cooperation in space. His

Government had recently hosted a workshop on the use of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS), and the creation that year of the "Roscosmos" Federal Space Agency was expected to boost cooperation with the United Nations.

26. Space security regulations were among the potential guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and States should find the political will to tackle that difficult area. Despite the useful efforts of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, it appeared that States such as France and the United States, which had initially been supportive, had difficulty grasping the need for positive changes in space security. His Government advocated focusing on the essentials of regulating that security, as well as working out common understanding of practical matters in that regard. To those ends, it had proposed a number of solutions aimed at consolidating sustainable and effective results in outer space activities, detailed in document A/AC.105/1080/Add.2. Those proposals took account of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, and had been validated in several areas by the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security in its 2015 report (A/70/174). Meaningful agreement on the regulation of the safety of space operations was a prerequisite for discussing space traffic management. His Government welcomed the contributions of Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Belgium, Germany and Italy in that regard at the informal intersessional meetings of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in Vienna in October 2015, and urged them to continue to provide their support at the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2016.

27. With regard to self-defence, the Russian Federation suggested formulating a roadmap towards a unified interpretation of operational and other aspects. His delegation recalled that, at its 57th session in 2014, COPUOS had agreed on the importance of considering the broader perspective of space security and sources of guidance under its agenda item "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes".

28. **Mr. Hodgkins** (United States) said that his delegation wished to thank COPUOS and its Subcommittees for their substantial contribution to promoting international space cooperation, particularly the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities. The United States believed the topic to be a very timely one in view of the increasing number of space actors, spacecraft and space debris. It was essential to agree on measures to reduce the risks of space operations, and his Government was prepared to work productively in the Working Group to reach consensus on long-term sustainability guidelines during 2016.

29. In response to the accusations of the Russian Federation that the United States was being uncooperative regarding long-term sustainability guidelines, he recalled that his delegation and that of France had been strong advocates for the guidelines in the debates of the Scientific and Technical Committee, while the Russian Federation had not expressed strong support. It was therefore false and unacceptable to suggest that the United States was being obstructionist in that connection.

30. COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee had a distinguished history of working by consensus to develop space law. Under the main treaties on outer space, space exploration by States, international organizations and private entities had flourished, with space technology and services contributing to economic growth and improved quality of life around the world. COPUOS was the only standing body of the United Nations concerned exclusively with the peaceful uses of outer space. Other United Nations bodies, including the First Committee, were specifically competent to consider disarmament and international security matters relating to outer space, whereas COPUOS offered a forum to promote cooperation on space exploration and the sharing of its benefits. The joint meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on challenges to space security and sustainability would soon provide a unique opportunity for improved coordination on transparency and confidence-building measures for outer space activities.

31. In connection with the applications of six countries to join COPUOS, which had been unnecessarily politicized during the last session, his Government had introduced a draft decision on increasing the membership of COPUOS, contained in document A/C.4/70/L.7, with 31 co-sponsors, and

urged all members to work constructively to reach consensus on that decision.

32. **Mr. Abbani** (Algeria) said that his country's national space programme, adopted in 2006, aimed to develop the country's industrial capacities and meet national requirements in theoretical knowledge and practical applications. Its overarching objective was to achieve socio-economic development while promoting regional and international cooperation, and programme implementation had been stepped up in 2015. Algeria was preparing its first satellites, and was already using such space applications as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and satellite imagery for natural resources, particularly for tracking forest fires, as well as for town planning. Training and research activities were also under way.

33. Algeria supported all initiatives to promote inter-African cooperation in space applications and technologies for sustainable development on the continent, and contributed to the efforts of the Office to develop a scientific, technical and legal framework in Africa and other regions. Algeria and South Africa were finalizing a joint development project for their respective earth observation satellites in the context of the African Resources Management Satellite Constellation (ARMC), with a view to contributing to the discovery and management of resources required for regional development and anti-poverty efforts. Algeria hosted the Regional Support Office for UN-SPIDER in support of natural disaster management for the region's countries. It had also worked with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) to provide satellite imagery and regional training. With support from the Office, Algeria had recently hosted an international conference on climate change and the use of space tools.

34. Algeria reaffirmed the importance of defining outer space and its relation to national airspace to prevent and manage potential conflicts; ensuring fair access to orbital positions based on the principles of peaceful use and non-appropriation of outer space, rather than on a "first-come, first-served" basis; tackling the dangers of space debris without hampering the emerging capacities of developing countries through voluntary implementation of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines; and introducing a regulatory framework for the commercialization of high-resolution satellite data to prevent misuse.

35. **Mr. Proaño** (Ecuador) said that COPUOS was the only international forum for the development of space law, and supported its efforts to promote international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and ensure equal access to the benefits thereof.

36. Any space law initiative should be analysed under the aegis of the United Nations, and an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities should be part of an inclusive, multilateral process within that framework. Any such code should not directly or indirectly limit the right of developing countries to use outer space, and nor should it replace legally binding multilateral agreements on peaceful space cooperation and the prohibition of weapons in outer space. As stated by other delegations, the security of a few powerful countries should not be placed above the security of all others and the planet as a whole.

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

38. Although Ecuador recognized the importance of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities as analysed by COPUOS, that process should not be used by countries with a tradition of space technology to restrict the legitimate right of other countries to use space technology to improve the lot of their peoples. The sustainability of space activities could be threatened by the space arms race, emplacement of nuclear and conventional weapons, geostationary orbit saturation and space rights conflicts. His Government prioritized the geostationary orbit as a limited natural resource that could become saturated in a way that threatened space activity. Ecuador believed that COPUOS could consider drafting an international regime for rationalizing the use of space and making it available to all States irrespective of technical capacity, while considering the interests of developing countries and the geographical location of certain countries.

39. More weight should be given to the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Meeting on

Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), particularly in relation to climate change and natural disasters, and there should be greater support for the effective work being done by UN-SPIDER. Ecuador was especially vulnerable to natural disasters, and the El Niño phenomenon was expected to have a particularly worrying impact in the near future. In order to protect domestic food security, the Ecuadorian Space Institute had launched several projects using space technology.

40. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that his delegation called for a strict adherence to the principles governing outer space: equal access, non-appropriation, non-militarization and international cooperation. Argentina saw space as an instrument for human development and well-being, and used low-orbiting earth observation and geostationary telecommunications satellites such as ARSATs 1 and 2 for scientific research. The country was discussing a bill on a National Geostationary Plan involving meteorological satellites and other projects. It was vital to share progress with developing countries through capacity-building in science and technology.

41. The use of outer space by a growing number of actors could have unpredictable effects on the outer space environment. Saturation of the geostationary orbit, the management of space rights, the use of nuclear energy in orbit, the emplacement of nuclear weapons, and a space arms race could all affect the long-term sustainability of space activities. International cooperation and an adherence to existing legal instruments were vital in that regard.

42. Although Argentina recognized the importance of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, that issue should not be used by countries with a tradition of space technology to restrict the legitimate right of other countries to use space technology to improve the lot of their peoples. In a similar vein, his delegation underlined the importance of space applications for the prevention, management and mitigation of natural disasters in the region.

43. **Mr. Zhou** Wu (China) welcomed the significant role played by COPUOS in strengthening the rule of law, international cooperation and capacity-building in outer space. China supported COPUOS in its efforts to promote synergy between space technology and global sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. His Government called on COPUOS to use the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) to improve planning and integration to promote the peaceful uses of outer space.

44. As an active participant of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, China appreciated the significant progress made to date. The current draft guide submitted by the Working Group provided a good basis for discussion, as any guide should be based on the reality of space technology development and activities, consider the concerns of all parties, and be built on consensus. China was ready to work with all parties to achieve positive progress.

45. COPUOS had added space traffic management and the application of international law to small satellite activities to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. Although China welcomed the effort to increase the transparency of outer space activities, guarantee orderly conduct and enhance security in outer space, the concept of space traffic management remained uncertain and could overlap with existing agenda items of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee or existing laws based on the Outer Space Treaty.

46. In 2015, China had conducted six space launches and sent seven spacecraft into outer space. China's manned space project had been intensified, and the Gaofen-2 high-resolution satellite had become operational. The country's Beidou Navigation Satellite System (COMPASS) remained successful.

47. Convinced that all peoples should share the benefits of outer space, China had continued to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation. At the bilateral level, the China National Space Administration had signed 11 intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements with l0 countries and international organizations including the Russian Federation, Brazil, Egypt, Sweden, and the United Nations, as well as establishing joint committee mechanisms on space cooperation with Argentina, India and Indonesia. The new governmental dialogue mechanism of civil space cooperation between China and the United States had begun as part of the Strategic Economic Dialogue (with the first meeting of the U.S.-China Civil Space Cooperation Dialogue held in 2015).

48. At the multilateral level, China continued to attend meetings of COPUOS, IADC, the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG), and the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS). During the 2015 COPUOS session, the National Space Administration invited all interested countries to conduct joint lunar exploration and research; in September 2015, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office regarding cooperation in remote sensing data.

49. In 2014, China had responded to seven requests under the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters", and performed four rounds of international-emergency duty-officer services. When Tibet was hit by an earthquake, the China National Space Administration had activated the emergency response mechanism under the Charter, and the Chinese Government thanked the responding countries and agencies for their assistance.

50. In November 2014, the United Nations-affiliated Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific was inaugurated at Beihang University, and currently had 10 Members including Argentina and Bangladesh.

51. China was committed to peaceful uses of outer space and firmly opposed its weaponization and a space arms race. As outer space was part of the universal heritage of humanity, China supported negotiations for a multilateral outer space arms control treaty. His Government believed that joint meetings of the First and Fourth committees on outer space facilitated coordination and interaction among space-related mechanisms within the United Nations system, thereby helping them to respond more effectively to the shared risks and challenges they faced.

52. **Mr. Maleki** (Iran) said that his delegation attached great importance to the role of COPUOS in maximizing the benefits of space capabilities in the areas of environment, health, education, resource monitoring and management and disaster mitigation. Space was an important driver of socio-economic growth, as well as helpful for tackling climate change and natural disasters, which caused many problems in Iran and other countries in the region. It was the domain of all humanity, and should be equally accessible to all States for peaceful purposes. Therefore, regulations or codes of conduct should avoid any measures limiting access to outer space by developing countries with emerging space capabilities. All States should take responsibility for avoiding a space arms race and any misuse or monopoly of outer space.

53. Geostationary orbit was a limited resource, and its use should be rationalized and accessible to all States equally, taking into account the geographical location of certain countries and the decisions of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system.

54. As a disaster-prone country, Iran supported the disaster management work of UN-SPIDER. Over the previous decade, Iran's space achievements had included the launch of a Kavoshgar-l sub-orbital rocket and the domestically-manufactured Omid, Rasad and Navid research and remote-sensing satellites. More recently, the Iranian Space Agency had launched a Pishgam rocket with life-support capacity for biological research in space; later, a Pajohesh rocket carrying a monkey had returned to Earth safely.

55. The Iranian Space Agency also cooperated with the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS), the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), ISNET, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

56. **Ms. Yoon** Seoungmee (Republic of Korea) said that, since the beginning of the space age, the exploration and use of outer space had driven technological innovation in areas relevant to social and economic objectives. Given the advantageous impact of space science, it was incumbent on all to maintain outer space as a usable domain for peaceful purposes.

57. The environment of outer space activities had become congested and competitive, with space debris increasing the risk of collisions. Her delegation therefore supported the efforts of the international community to draft an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities as a way of ensuring safety for all by strengthening transparency and confidence-building measures. Her Government attached great importance to cooperative efforts, including those within COPUOS, and expected the recommendations for the guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities to be based on the fundamental

principles of the primary responsibility of States in terms of space activities, as well as to accommodate the interests of private actors where appropriate.

58. Her country's national space programme included the Korea Space Launch Vehicle (KSLV) II and the Korea Multi-purpose Satellite (KOMPSAT) or Arirang.

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

60. **Mr. Prasad** (India) said that his delegation recognized COPUOS as the unique platform for international space cooperation and peaceful uses of outer space under the mandate of the General Assembly. India had space cooperation agreements with 36 countries and three international organizations.

61. India's Mars Orbiter Mission had provided invaluable data to the scientific community on the Martian surface and atmosphere. There were two new satellites in the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) constellation, while the Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) programme had been certified as meeting the aircraft landing performance requirements of international civil aviation regulation bodies. The country's advanced communication satellite, GSAT-16, had been successfully launched by Arianespace with the largest number of transponders yet carried by an Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) communication satellite. In late 2014, India had conducted the first experimental suborbital flight of the Mk III Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV), as well as the Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE). The C23 Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) had placed earth-observation, micro- and nano-satellites into orbit, while the GSAT-6 communication satellite had been launched by the GSLV-D6.

62. In 2015, with the collaboration of the Canadian Space Agency and the University of Leicester (United Kingdom), the ASTROSAT observatory had been placed into orbit along with co-passenger satellites from the United States, Canada and Indonesia. India would launch three more IRNSS satellites in 2016 and was preparing to launch five satellites from Singapore in December 2015 using the PSLV. India was building a satellite for southern African countries, as well as undertaking a project with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to establish a ground station in Viet Nam for disaster management support and training in space science, technology and applications. ISRO had also been included as a new member of the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS), and continued to share its expertise through the United Nations-affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP).

64. **Mr. Jo** Jong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that space was the common wealth of all humankind, and that the development of outer space was important for advancing human welfare.

65. With the launches of several "Kwangmyongsong" experimental communication satellites over the past few years, his Government's space development capacity had reached the point where it could launch such satellites at will. A new General Satellite Control Centre had also been set up in 2015. The Law on the Development of Outer Space and the National Aerospace Development Administration had been set up to keep pace with the rapid development of space capacity in accordance with the national legal framework. Recent space research had included the use of earth observation satellites for weather forecasting, estimated crop yields, disasters, exploration of resources and communications. Further use would be made of space for peaceful purposes.

66. Under the pretext of Security Council resolutions, the United States and other hostile forces had depicted his country's peaceful satellite launches as purported ballistic missile launches in an attempt to block his country's peaceful use of outer space. He emphasized, however, that the exploration of outer space, by any country and under any circumstances, should be for peaceful purposes only. The militarization of outer space led by the United States, through the establishment of a missile defence system aimed at Eastern Europe and the Korean peninsula was an intolerable provocation to international law and the common human desire for the peaceful use of outer space. All Member States should step up efforts towards preventing the emplacement of weapons in

space, and towards transparency and confidence-building in outer space activities.

67. **Mr. Takeda** (Japan) said that his Government wished to contribute to the peaceful use of space for all humanity. Japan recognized COPUOS as an important platform for international cooperation in that regard. Its three most relevant elements were transparency and confidence building; essential discussions on the long-term sustainability of outer space; and the uses of outer space for research on energy, climate change, the environment and food security.

68. Japan had promoted the work of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), and had launched a space vehicle and communication satellites. In the area of human space exploration, Japanese astronauts were taking part in present and future missions of the International Space Station (ISS).

69. **Mr. Bosah** (Nigeria) said that the scale of human activities in outer space underscored the importance of consultations on a regulatory framework. His delegation therefore welcomed the initiative to draft an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, based on ensuring global security rather than national appropriation. His Government reaffirmed its commitment to the founding principle of COPUOS: outer space was the common heritage of humanity to be used for peaceful purposes.

70. In that connection, his Government highlighted the importance of technical cooperation and information sharing among countries according to the principles of friendship, equal partnership and mutual respect. As universal access to the global benefits of space technology could be constrained by intellectual property rights, it was vital to prevent such patents from hampering efforts to close economic and social inequalities. His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that developed countries were building the capacity of developing nations in space technology through training in telecommunications, satellite, meteorology and remote sensing. The latter had been invaluable in monitoring the desert encroachment that plagued the Sahel countries.

71. Nigeria appreciated the assistance received from the Office, and would continue to collaborate with States and other entities to achieve a sustainable national space programme.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

72. **Mr. Jo** Jong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his Government's satellite project was for economic development and improving the standard of living of the people of his country. However, hostile forces including the Republic of Korea continued to talk about the use of ballistic missile technology. He inquired as to which technology the Republic of Korea and other countries used to launch satellites and whether the United Nations Treaties on Outer Space contained any provisions stating that only certain countries could access outer space using technologies such as ballistic missile technologies. It was an intolerable example of double standards on the peaceful use of space technologies to exclude his country from launching satellites when such uses were commonplace for other nations.

73. **Ms. Yoon** Seoungmee (Republic of Korea) said that the Security Council had made it clear in the Presidential Statement of 16 April 2012 that the launch of a satellite by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a serious violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, even if characterized as a satellite launch or space launch vehicle. Such launches using ballistic missile technology were therefore clearly in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. Given that country's history of nuclear tests and missile launches, the situation was a threat to international peace and security. In the light of its track record of provocation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was in no position to challenge Security Council resolutions or to claim to be engaged in the peaceful uses of outer space.

74. **Mr. Jo** Jong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the world and outer space were the domain of all peoples, rather than being the property of particular countries. According to the intervention by the representative of the Republic of Korea, it appeared that countries close to the United States or other western nations could launch satellites at will (including spy satellites for military purposes), while countries such as his with a hostile relationship with those countries had no right to use outer space. That was a violation of the universally accepted laws stating that space could be used equally by any State without distinction, and of the principle of sovereignty provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation reiterated its position that the satellite launch for peaceful purposes was the dignified right of

a sovereign State recognized by international law, which was a principle that took precedence over Security Council resolutions.

75. **Ms. Yoon** Seoungmee (Republic of Korea) said that the argument put forward by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea confirmed that his country had no intention of abiding by international norms. According to Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States were obliged to abide by resolutions of the Security Council. According to Article 103 of the Charter, obligations under the Charter prevailed over obligations under other international agreements. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was therefore clearly bound by the resolutions of the Security Council.

The meeting rose at 5.28 p.m.