

(Mr. Nakamura, Japan)

applications along the lines proposed by the Secretary-General in his report contained in document A/C.109/6.11-17, especially in its phase one. We wish to reiterate, in this connection, our appreciation of the work so far done by the expert on applications on space technology, Mr. Riechardt.

Finally, we have noted with considerable interest the text proposed by the Soviet Union relating to the preparation of an international treaty concerning the moon and at a later stage in the course of the present debate my delegation may wish to comment on it.

Before concluding my statement, I should like to stress once again that Japan attaches great importance to this whole field of the peaceful uses of outer space, in which we feel there is so much potential for the benefit of humanity. Accordingly, we shall do our best to contribute as much as we can to future progress in this field.

MR. IBRAHIMA (Uganda): May I first say that the capable and courteous manner in which you, Mr. Chairman, have handled the proceedings of this Committee since you and your colleagues were elected to conduct our business shows our collective wisdom in having chosen the right people for the job. I am sure that we shall continue to have fruitful deliberations under your competent guidance.

I wish, before discussing matters of outer space, to congratulate those nations which are carrying out space exploration, in particular the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Beyond our world we must all feel ourselves as members of the human race when any of us ventures into the limitless vastness of outer space. It was therefore fitting when the first human being on the moon, the representative of the United States here, placed the flag of our nations on the lunar surface and declared it as a State for all mankind and not just for his country alone.

We are discussing the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation in principle supports the text of the liability convention as drafted. We welcome the realization of States involved in outer space exploration. They have an obligation to compensate those who may be adversely affected by their activities.

(Mr. Ichikawa, Uganda)

But we do regret that the measure of compensation as proposed in the article of the draft convention is not supposed to be according to the municipal law of the State in which the injury occurs, but rather by the principles of international law. It is the view of my delegation that it is only fair and proper that compensation in the event of any injury to any object or anything in another State must be measured by the municipal law of that State, unless, as the representative of Canada has just pointed out, that municipal law is contrary to the established principles of international law.

This point is quite important for my country as a developing nation which for the foreseeable future is not going to engage in the space programme, but which may conceivably be involved in receiving some mislaid or misdirected objects which has been pushed up into space by some other Member State.

It is quite self-evident that the historic era of man going into outer space portends incalculable consequences for our world, whether one on this earth walks on foot or moves in a Cadillac, whether one lives in grass huts or in skyscrapers, whether one is starving and hungry or having more than enough to eat, and irrespective of our political and social systems. What happens in the heavens in outer space is very much a matter for careful and serious attention for all mankind, and it should not be assumed that simply because some developing States do not have space programmes, therefore they have no interest in outer space exploration.

The draft convention now before us, and those others to come, are conceived on the basis exclusively that only States from this planet can explore or use outer space. The rights and obligations concern one State in relation to another from our planet. Consequently, we exclude all possibility that we might share outer space with some other space explorers possessed of intelligence and capabilities matching our own, from some unidentified origins.

If there should be any possibility that there might be other co-users of outer space other than from planet earth, it becomes imperative that in a convention such as the one before us or others to come, there must be included a clause ensuring that any State engaged in outer space exploration must conduct