

(Mr. Frazão, Brazil)

Now that the work on the liability convention is over, our attention can be devoted to the other major legal questions still unresolved. The report of the Committee reveals, in its careful wording, that no agreement has yet been reached on a rigid set of priorities for the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee. This difficulty derives from the very fact that all these questions are urgent in one sense or another.

We firmly trust that the spirit of compromise finally displayed in the draft convention on liability will not take another eight years to manifest itself when it comes to the future assignments of the Legal Sub-Committee. For its part, Brazil is prepared to contribute its efforts towards any constructive approach to the items to be tackled in the future work of the Committee.

In our opinion, the most urgent problems to which initial priorities should be assigned are: the registration of objects launched into space for exploration or use of outer space; the various implications of space communications; and the definition or delimitations of outer space.

As to the first point, my delegation gladly took note of the announced intention of the Canadian Government to submit at an early date a draft convention on registration. We are ready to co-operate in the rapid conclusion of such a long-needed convention, thus establishing a system of registration which, besides conferring a higher degree of order on the exploration and use of outer space, will prevent its use for other than peaceful purposes.

Although we all voice praise for the outstanding achievements in the field of space research and exploration, we cannot fail to express some apprehension regarding recent developments, which do not quite follow the spirit of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. There are, for instance, reports on experiments in an offensive system utilizing a fractional orbit of the earth for aggressive purposes; it is also known that warning systems through satellites of a military nature are being installed in outer space. This situation is

(Mr. Frazão, Brazil)

being allowed to develop perhaps because the Treaty itself is in need of specific regulation. In this particular question, the Treaty has provided us with the framework. It states in Article IV:

"States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station weapons in outer space in any other manner." (Resolution 2222 (XXI))

Let us now set rigid criteria of registration and controls, so as to maintain outer space immune from the arms race. Outer space is of benefit to all, as the Treaty recognizes, the province of mankind. It is thus imperative that it should be, as soon as possible, definitively free from the harmful side-effects of our earthly disputes.

The second point, space communications, is a matter in which my Government has a great interest and also some concern. The prospect that absolute discretion might prevail regarding direct international broadcast satellites to the point of allowing undue interference in the sovereign rights of States, cannot be overlooked by my Government. Sovereignty is not merely a physical concept and should not be confined to the material integrity of the territory. The sovereignty of a State is defined, not only by the invasion of its territory by enemy troops; it is also at stake when unwarranted propaganda of political or commercial nature invades its boundaries.

Thus the Brazilian Government, while developing the technological benefits of space communications as a means of integration of its vast territory, has been, at the same time, unwaveringly advocating the adoption, through some sort of international means, of adequate controls. Direct international satellite broadcasts must be an instrument of valuable and unbiased international co-operation, open to all nations of the world without discrimination; for that purpose they can never be used without the explicit agreement of third States.