

12 February

Unofficial Transcript

Algeria.

Ambassador Idris Nazari.

Thank you Mr. President

I would first like to make a statement on behalf of my government and then one in the name of the G21. The one that I'm making in the name of my government is the result of a very interesting discussion we have had on PAROS. And I was expecting as we got a statement from the Presidency of the EU and in particular on PAROS this morning that they might indicate how this draft code of conduct for outer space for activities which does apply to civilian as well as military activities, therefore it's a broad code of conduct. How it would, if it had been in force, have avoided a collision that we've had yesterday between a Cosmos satellite and the Iridium satellite. Sometimes I feel that we are a bit out of touch with what happens on the ground, or I should say, in the sky, in this particular case. And let me be [frank] about this, today, I mean as you do the [statemanship] for the code of conduct it would be interesting to see how you think that, for instance, the paragraph 4:2 says "take appropriate steps to minimize the risk of collision." Well, you know, that's quite a topical subject. What have you done or what could you do to avoid such risk? People say that just by chance that this happens. We have 3,000 satellites, I think, in the sky. Algeria has one, by the way. We're also interested. But when we have several thousands more, then the chance [can] increase. I'd like to know, what the... how this conscience can have an input to this discussion, especially since we're talking about it, talking about the frame of guidelines.

Thank you Mr. President.