

Agenda Item 5 – “Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes”

Thank you Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

As space activities have diversified over recent years, Japan acknowledges the importance of upholding the rule of law by the international community, and calls upon all states to consider ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. COPUOS plays an essential role in discussing such matters for ensuring the safety, security, and sustainability of outer space. Japan also acknowledges the importance of Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, and we feel that COPUOS serves as a unique platform for sharing information and improving mutual understanding of the space activities among states.

Speaking of the stability of outer space, space debris poses a serious threat to daily lives of people given the growing dependence on the space assets. Japan is taking concrete steps towards tackling the issue of space debris through domestic policy, legal instrument, technical standards, research and development.

One such example is the Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration program, under which JAXA and Japanese industry are working together to develop technology for the removal of large sized space debris.

Another efficient way to tackle the issue of space debris is to respect and comply with international norms. In this regard, Japan believes that implementation of the LTS Guidelines and the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines is becoming more important, considering the growing diversity of players that are involved in space activities. Japan will continue to constructively participate in the discussion of the LTS 2.0 WG to reach a tangible outcome during this session.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Japan has actively participated in various space cooperation projects for the peaceful uses of outer space. International cooperation promotes mutual understanding, enhances transparency, and builds confidence among nations.

The International Space Station is an example of a successful partnership. Using the ISS, Japan has been cooperating with UNOOSA to promote the “KiboCUBE” program, which was launched in 2015 and offers an opportunity for the selected entity located in developing countries to deploy CubeSat from the Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” of the ISS. In June this year, a CubeSat named MIR-SAT1, developed by a team from the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council and the winner of the third round of KiboCUBE, was successfully deployed from Kibo. This was Mauritius’ first satellite, and the experience of development and operation of MIR-SAT1, such as image acquisition and communication demonstration, is expected to benefit the future space activities in Mauritius.

Currently, we are opening the seventh round of KiboCUBE. We look forward to welcoming many applications from COPUOS member states.

I would also like to touch on another example of multilateral space cooperation, that is, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF. This is a successful initiative of regional peaceful cooperation led by Japan. The forum attracts participants from space agencies, governmental bodies, and international organizations, such as the United Nations, as well as private companies, universities and research institutes from over 30 countries representing various regions. The open framework of APRSAF enables various entities to participate in various programs under the Forum.

Last November, “APRSAF Online 2020” was held under the theme of “Sharing Space Visions Beyond Distance.” Heads of space agencies shared their visions of space initiatives in the challenging era of COVID-19, and participants acknowledged the increasing need of space technology especially in supporting

remote activities. This year, Viet Nam and Japan will host the 27th session of APRSAF online from November 30th to December 3rd, under the theme “Expand Space Innovation through Diverse Partnerships”. We hope more people will be interested in the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.