

Thank you Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Japan is of the view that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee provides a unique and important platform to promote international cooperation in the field of outer space. Japan would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Chair of the Subcommittee, Ms. Natalia Archinard, for her excellent work.

Given the rapid evolution of the outer space environment and of related technologies, the guidelines for long-term sustainability of outer space activities are increasingly becoming relevant tool to tackle the proliferation of space debris, the increasing complexity of space operations, and the increasing risks of collision and interference that affect the sustainability of space activities. In this respect, Japan welcomes the initiative led by UNOOSA and the UK space agency for awareness raising and capacity building related to the implementation of the LTS Guidelines. Japan has also been cooperating with countries of the Asia-Pacific in this area under the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, and Japan has

submitted the case study of the implementation of the LTS guidelines to UNOOSA last month.

Recalling the last session of the STSC, we welcome Mr. Umamaheswaran as the new Chair of the LTS 2.0 Working Group and extend our sincere appreciation to the flexibility shown by all nominees and countries to advance the process of this important work of the committee. We look forward to developing the terms of reference, methods of work, and work plan during this session. Japan’s views on these issues have been well reflected in the conference room paper which was jointly submitted by Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, and the United States of America.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates

Japan is conducting research and development of technologies related to the mitigation and remediation of space debris. One example is an open tool to aid collision avoidance operation by satellite operators called "Risk Avoidance Support Tool Based on Debris Approach Collision Probability" (RABBIT). At present,

RABBIT provides safe flight operations for 100 satellites of 50 organization around the world.

Moreover, Japan is investigating ways to remove large size space debris. JAXA is currently cooperating with Japanese industry in research and development of active debris removal (ADR) under the Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration program. The first phase of this project is currently scheduled for JFY 2022 to demonstrate the key technology of ADR such as non-cooperative rendezvous, proximity operation and inspection of a discarded Japanese rocket upper stage.

Respecting the need for considerable transparency in licensing such kinds of on-orbit servicing (OOS) missions, the Government of Japan is developing guidelines for a license to operate a spacecraft designed to perform OOS, based on the technical and legal requirements submitted by an expert working group. Through the implementation of the guidelines, Japan will ensure that the future OOS missions are conducted in a safe and transparent manner, in due compliance with international rules including the Outer Space Treaty and the UN Convention on the Registration of

## Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Japan is currently discussing debris mitigation as well as STM in general to prepare for related activities by Japanese private entities in the near future. We acknowledge the need for transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities to avoid miscalculation and misunderstanding, and Japan is also discussing on what is the best approach for ensuring the transparency of our future activities.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates

Space exploration and utilization have yielded tremendous scientific, economic and societal benefits. Japan recognizes that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has been the driver of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. I encourage all members and observers of this Committee to be part of this movement. For its part, Japan will continue its efforts in research, exploration and international cooperation for the benefit of humankind.

Thank you for your attention.