

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Japan acknowledges that space technology and international cooperation are indispensable for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Last June, the Japanese government updated the Basic Plan on Space Policy to include Japan's contribution to the SDGs by leveraging space technology. Also, last December, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters of the Japanese government established the "SDGs Action Plan 2021", which includes R&D and utilization activities aboard the Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" of the ISS, the development of space food, and utilization of satellite data to contribute to the SDGs.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to introduce some examples of how Japan contributes to the SDGs by using space technology.

Japan has been promoting the utilization of “Kibo” to maximize its outcomes. Various experiments have been conducted aboard “Kibo,” including on material/physical science, medical science, life science, and capacity building. Such experiments are expected to contribute to SDGs 3, 4, 9, and 17.

One example is the high-quality protein crystal growth experiment aboard “Kibo.” The detailed information of protein crystals obtained from this experiment is expected to contribute to the design of innovative drugs such as for infectious diseases, cancer, and lifestyle-related diseases.

In addition to this, Japan is contributing to the capacity building of developing and emerging countries, for example, by supporting “access to space” for some of these countries. One example is providing these countries the opportunities of deploying CubeSats from “Kibo” through programs such as “KiboCUBE.” Japan also

provides educational opportunities to students in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2019, JAXA started a new educational program called “Kibo Robot Programming Challenge” in collaboration with NASA. It is an educational programming competition using JAXA and NASA’s free-flying robots in the ISS. Over 1,000 students from 7 countries in the Asia-Pacific region participated in the first series of the competition. JAXA is currently conducting the second series.

Mr. Chair,

Japan is promoting the utilization of satellite data to address global challenges such as food security, water management, air pollution, coastal eutrophication, and sustainable forest management, which are expected to contribute to SDGs 2, 3, 6, 11,13,14 and 15.

Leveraging the knowledge gained by utilizing L-band radar and optical Earth observation satellite data, Japan has been publishing the annual global mangrove map, called “Global Mangrove Watch.” Japan expects that these data can be used to support decision

making for the sustainable conservation of mangroves. Last year, this map was designated by UNEP as the official mangrove dataset for SDG 6.6.1 reporting.

Another example is an international cooperative project for disaster monitoring in the Asia-Pacific region, known as “Sentinel Asia.” This is a collaborative project among the countries in the region to reduce damage caused by natural disasters by sharing disaster-related information acquired from satellite images and other data with 94 organizations from 28 countries and regions and 17 international organizations. As of July 27, 20 emergency observations were conducted in 2021, and the latest case was Typhoon Fabian in the Philippines.

Also, Japan promotes research and development for a range of Earth observation satellites that contribute to forest monitoring, estimation of sink and sources of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, and the prevention of health hazards caused by air pollution through the release of aerosol data. In addition to the above, Japan will develop and promote the use of satellites that are especially

contributing to the fight against climate change.

Mr. Chair,

Japan firmly believes that space technology has a high potential to support sustainable development and will continue to contribute to this important issue.

Thank you for your kind attention.