

Agenda Item 12 – “General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management”

---

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

In recent years, outer space has become congested due to its diversified use and an increasing number of countries using it. In addition, an increase of space debris caused by Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests and by satellite collisions has posed a growing risk to the sustainable and stable use of outer space. Japan is of the view that securing the stable use of the outer space environment is critical and strongly encourages all States to cooperate to prevent the creation and diffusion of long-lived orbital debris in a manner consistent with international norms. Space traffic management (STM), which entails developing and implementing a set of technical and regulatory provisions to promote safe access into outer space, operations in outer space and return from outer space that is free from physical or radio-frequency interference, is of the utmost importance in order to keep the outer space environment safe, stable and sustainable.

I would like to reiterate Japan’s commitment on this topic, and call on Member States to implement the existing framework related to STM. Japan engages in appropriate international coordination based on the management of radio frequency and geostationary orbits through the ITU. Furthermore, I would like to reiterate the importance of providing pre-launch notifications that contain information on a launch plan using applicable existing and/or new dedicated mechanisms. With this in mind, Japan has been submitting prelaunch notifications of our launch vehicles and has been reporting annual launch plans based on the “*Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation*.”

Additionally, Japan released a report on requirements for On-Orbit Servicing (OOS) on 28 May. We acknowledge the need for transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities to prevent miscalculations and misunderstandings. Japan also released a basic policy on STM rule-making on the same day.

On 3 March, Japan hosted the “*6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Ensuring Stable Use of Outer Space*” in Tokyo, which focused on STM and OOS (On-Orbit Servicing). During the Symposium, panellists and participants discussed opportunities and challenges to realizing globally coordinated Space Traffic Management. They also discussed several issues regarding OOS including the challenges posed by its dual use nature, its security implications, and the importance of transparency to differentiate between malicious RPO (Rendezvous and Proximity Operations) and OOS for peaceful purposes.

Thank you for your kind attention.