

Japan Item 11– “LTS”

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Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As the number of players in the space sector continues to grow, the importance of advancing the development and implementation of effective rules to ensure the safety, security, sustainability, and stability of outer space cannot be overemphasized. Recalling the adoption of the LTS Guidelines, Japan encourages member states and international organizations to implement these guidelines to the greatest extent.

In this regard, Japan appreciates the efforts made by the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities and its Chair, Mr. Umamaheswaran. At the LTS Workshop during this session, Japan intends to provide input on space debris mitigation and remediation from the dual perspectives of government, space agencies and the private sector. Japan is committed to the success of this Working Group and its Workshop.

Chair,

First, allow us to briefly introduce some examples of how Japan has been implementing the LTS Guidelines.

The LTS Guidelines encourage the design of space objects in line with applicable international and national space debris mitigation standards and/or guidelines to limit the long-term presence of space objects after the end of their mission. To this end, Japan established space debris mitigation requirements, such as prevention of on-orbit break-up, collision avoidance and post-mission disposal, for space objects controlled under Japanese jurisdiction in the Space Activities Act in 2016.

As stated in Japan’s Basic Plan on Space Policy 2023, Japan promotes research and development in the field of active debris removal. JAXA is currently collaborating with the private sector on a project named Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration (CRD2). In addition, Japan established national on-orbit servicing guidelines which prescribe requirements to ensure

safe, secure and transparent performance of on-orbit servicing, including active debris removal.

By sharing the results of technological development and good practices of operational rules, Japan is determined to contribute to international cooperation and rulemaking to enhance debris mitigation and remediation measures.

Furthermore, Japan is currently discussing a potential mid-term Space Traffic Coordination and Management policy with a focus on collision avoidance, Space Situational Awareness, debris mitigation and large constellations with a view to contributing to international rulemaking.

The LTS Guidelines also address the promotion of international cooperation and capacity building. In this regard, Japan is cooperating with UNOOSA on the “Space Law for New Space Actors” project to support Asia-Pacific countries in establishing national space legislation to conduct space activities in a responsible and sustainable manner. As a part of this initiative, Japan hosted a capacity-building workshop in Tokyo in January this year, focusing on the licensing and continuing supervision of space activities with more than 20 participants from seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Furthermore, Japan has been actively taking part in community building related to space policy and law in the region, such as through the “National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI)” under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). Last year during the 66th session of COPUOS, the NSLI, along with 12 countries, submitted the second report on national space legislation, including the implementation status of the LTS Guidelines in each country. The Joint Statement of the 29th APRSAF in 2023 expressed the expectation to launch the third phase of NSLI.

Furthermore, as a side event of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of COPUOS, the APRSAF Secretariat and the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) jointly organized “the 3rd Inter-Regional Space Policy Dialogue Between the Asia-Pacific and Europe.” During this side event, we addressed topics such as (i) public-private partnerships in ensuring the implementation of LTS guidelines and (ii) the role of

private actors in safety and sustainability efforts and commercial perspectives, together with the private sector.

We believe that these initiatives will facilitate the implementation of the LTS Guidelines and promote the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

I would like to end my statement by restating our commitment to the safety, security, sustainability, and stability of outer space.

Thank you for your kind attention.