

Japan Item 7 - “National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space”

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Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan established the Basic Space Act in 2008. The purpose of this Act is to comprehensively and systematically promote Japan’s space development and use in order to improve the lives of its citizens, and to promote national economic development, international peace and the welfare of humankind.

According to the Act, the Basic Plan on Space Policy is formulated to propel a comprehensive space policy. The current Basic Plan, updated in 2020, refers to the promotion of international cooperation on Japan’s space activities as contained in the first edition of the Plan.

In 2016, Japan enacted two national space acts on non-governmental space activities and on remote sensing data utilization. In December 2021, the “Act on the Promotion of Business Activities for the Exploration and Development of Space Resources”, commonly known as the “Space Resources Act” of Japan, came into force.

The “*Act on Launching of Spacecraft, etc. and Control of Spacecraft*,” commonly known as the “*Space Activities Act*”, established systems of authorization for non-governmental launches and for the control of satellites, and compensation schemes regarding third party liability for damage caused by launches, in order to ensure accurate and smooth implementation of the United Nations treaties on outer space. This is to ensure public safety, and to contribute to enhancing the livelihoods of people and the development of their activities. The Act and related orders came into effect in November 2018.

The “*Act on Ensuring Appropriate Handling of Satellite Remote Sensing Data*” established a licensing regime for the use of satellite remote sensing instruments and to address necessary measures with respect to restrictions associated with satellite data. This is to ensure the adequacy of using satellite remote sensing systems and of handling data derived from the systems. The Act and related orders came into effect in November 2017.

The Space Resources Act was enacted to promote these activities, especially those carried out by the private sector, considering the growing expectations of commercial activities in this area. It defines the obligations of operators to apply for licenses to explore, develop and acquire ownership of space resources and ensuring international cooperation. The Act also ensures that its enforcement does not interfere with the implementation of treaties and other international agreements concluded by the Government of Japan, and that the Act will not interfere unduly with the interests of other States in exercising their freedom for the exploration and use of outer space.

Japan also established national guidelines for on-orbit servicing in November 2021. We believe these guidelines will facilitate "end-of-life service" and active debris removal provided by Japanese companies.

Considering the growing diversity of space activities, including commercial ones, it is essential for governments to ensure appropriate uses of outer space in accordance with international law. It is also important to promote commercial activities by setting up adequate standards that appropriately address safety and security concerns. The Government of Japan is willing to address these challenges through the formulation of national regulatory frameworks.

Madam Chair,

Japan acknowledges the importance of information sharing and mutual learning on national space legislation in order to enhance space activities pursuant to the treaties and other international norms on space development and utilization. In this regard, the "National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI)", which has been carried out under the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), provides regional opportunities to contribute to such objectives.

One of the aims of the Initiative is to promote information sharing and mutual learning on the practices of national legislation and policies in the Asia-Pacific region. The Initiative also aims to enhance the capacity of Asia-Pacific countries to draft and implement national space legislation and policies, in line with international norms.

As the host country of APRSAF and a participating country of the Initiative, Japan will actively promote the activities of the Initiative to further enhance the

development of national space legislation in the Asia-Pacific region. We plan to submit the Initiative's second report to the 66th session of the COPUOS with twelve countries, namely Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Türkiye and Viet Nam. It covers new topics on national implementation of the LTS guidelines and involvement of private entities in national legislation and the policy making process.

Thank you for your kind attention.