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Madam chair, distinguished delegates,

Space technology is indispensable for every aspect of our lives. It is the basis of every nation’s infrastructure, varying from disaster prevention, agriculture, communication, education and more. Space technology allows countries to take the bold and transformative steps, which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. In this respect, Japan welcomes the establishment of this agenda item “Space and Global Health” and the working group with Dr. Antoine Geissbühler as the chair in last year.

Recognizing space technology contributes to the creation of sustainable society, Japan has been developing the ways and means of space applications for contributing to global health.

Japan believes that remote sensing is one of the efficient ways for tackling with global health issues. One example is the air pollution monitoring using Himawari data. Himawari is the Japanese geostationary meteorological satellite used for weather forecast. It could monitor particles such as desert dust and air pollutant, which affect the quality of the atmosphere. Also, Global Change Observation Mission - Climate (GCOM-C) has the capability in observing atmospheric particles (including desert dust and PM2.5) in a global scale and it will also contribute to the air pollution monitoring. One idea is to utilize these data to predict areas which will suffer from health problems due to air pollution.

Air pollution is closely linked to global health. According to a recent report by WHO, air pollution is regarded as the single biggest environmental risk on human health, causing 7 million premature deaths. Space observations can greatly contribute to better understanding of the emissions, trends, and impacts of air pollutants such as PM2.5 and ozone. This research area needs to be strengthened to reduce the environmental health risk, in particular, in developing countries.

With regard to the activities of National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), please refer to the technical presentation delivered in this morning.

Earth observation using remote sensing satellites allows controlled real-time data collection from wide areas where ground investigation is politically or

geographically difficult. Japan will continue to use space technology for the benefits of humankind and contribute to the advancement of global health.