

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As the number of players in the space sector continues to grow, Japan reiterates the importance of effective rule-making and the implementation of these rules to ensure the safety, security, sustainability, and stability of outer space. Recalling the recent adoption of the LTS guidelines, Japan encourages states and international organizations to implement these guidelines to the greatest extent.

While we value their implementation, we also understand that some of the guidelines need to be further elaborated. To initiate the work of the LTS2.0 WG, Japan hopes to reach agreement on the TOR, methods of work, and workplan as soon as possible.

Mr. Chair,

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 in order to limit the long-term presence of space objects after the end of their mission. To this end, under Article 22 of the Space Activities Act in Japan, space objects launched or controlled from Japan need to meet space debris mitigation requirements in order to obtain a license, including for the design of spacecraft to prevent dispersion or harmful contamination of the space environment, and for the control of spacecraft to avoid collision with other spacecraft during operation and at the end of its mission.

In particular, for satellites carrying out on-orbit servicing, Japan established the national guidelines prescribing requirements to ensure safe, secure and transparent performance of on-orbit servicing.

Additionally, JAXA has its own space debris mitigation standard which provides in-depth technical procedures.

The LTS guidelines also address the adoption, revision, and amendment of national regulatory frameworks and supervision of national space activities, as well as the promotion and support of capacity-building. In this regard, Japan is cooperating with UNOOSA on the “Space Law for New Space Actors” project to support Asia-Pacific countries establish national space legislation to conduct space activities in a responsible and sustainable manner.

I would like to end my statement by restating our commitment to the safety, security and sustainability of outer space. We look forward to discussions in the LTS 2.0 WG in the coming days.

Thank you for your kind attention.