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Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

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

In this respect, Japan appreciates the efforts made by the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities to reach consensus on its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan, enabling us to begin the important and substantial work ahead of us. To encourage a fruitful exchange, Japan shared its national practices for implementing the LTS Guidelines during the LTSWG meeting in November 2022. Japan is committed to the success of this Working Group and is looking forward to constructive discussions in the upcoming meetings.

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, Japan established space debris mitigation requirements for space objects controlled from Japan in the Space Activities Act. These requirements are related to the design of spacecraft to prevent dispersion of its components and parts, the control of spacecraft to avoid collision with other spacecraft, as well as efforts to achieve on-orbit lifetime of spacecraft of no more than 25 years in low earth orbit after the termination of the control.

In addition, Japan promotes research and development in the field of Active Debris Removal. By sharing good practices and the results of technological

development, Japan hopes to contribute to international cooperation and rulemaking to enhance debris mitigation and remediation measures.

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

Japan is currently discussing a potential mid-term Space Traffic Coordination and Management policy with a focus on collision avoidance, Space Situation Awareness, debris mitigation and large constellation with a view to contributing to international rule-making.

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

Mr. Chair,

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 in establishing national space legislation to conduct space activities in a responsible and sustainable manner.

I believe that these projects 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 and sustainability of outer space. We look forward to constructive discussions in the LTS 2.0 WG in the coming days.

Thank you for your attention.