

Statement by Dr. Hiroshi YAMAKAWA, JAXA President

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On behalf of Japan, I am honored to address this special occasion, the UNISPACE+50 High-level Segment. We welcome your leadership, Ms. Rosa María, as incoming chair of the Committee, and take this opportunity to thank Mr. David Kendall for his outstanding accomplishments last year as chairman of the Committee. Japan would also like to express gratitude to OOSA, members of the bureau of COPUOS, its subsidiary bodies “G-15” and the Steering Committee of UNISPACE+50 for their efforts, and welcome the endorsement of the resolution, “Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as driver of sustainable development.”

It is our great pleasure to see a growing number of delegates, members, observers and non-members of COPUOS are here with us today. We welcome *Kingdom of Bahrain*, *Kingdom of Denmark* and *Kingdom of Norway* as new members of the Committee, as well as the applications of *Republic of Cyprus*, *Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*, *Republic of Finland*, *Republic of Mauritius* and *Republic of Paraguay*.

In 1968, UNISPACE I raised our awareness of the broad societal benefits of space exploration and its potential to change our lives for the better. Since then, our interest in space affairs has expanded and we managed to conclude the Vienna Declaration in 1999 during UNISPACE III, which addressed the immense potential of space technology for socioeconomic development. Japan has been supporting international cooperation and the development of emerging nations.

Today, 50 years after UNISPACE I, we are gathered once again on this platform for global dialogue to create a blueprint for the peaceful uses of outer space. Japan further promotes the international cooperation by established, emerging and commercial space actors. The new business ideas are emerging, including actions on the space debris. Japan strongly encourages all states to play a constructive role in finalizing discussions this year on the “Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” as decided in the “work plan.”

In June 2016, we endorsed seven Thematic Priorities, which crystallized the essence of the UNISPACE+50. Let me introduce Japanese effort towards each priority.

In response to Thematic Priority 1, “Global partnership in space exploration and innovation,” Japan hosted the 2nd International Space Exploration Forum, ISEF2, on March 3rd of this year in Tokyo. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to many countries and organizations that supported this forum, including participation of Ministers and Heads of Space Agency from 45 countries and organizations. As a result, three outcome documents were adopted; the “ISEF2 Joint Statement,” “Tokyo Principles, for International Space Exploration” and “ISEF Terms of Reference.” These were welcomed as the basis for governments to engage in dialogue to promote international cooperation and long-term space exploration endeavors that bring benefits to

humanity and have been acknowledged in the report for the UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priority 1.

With reference to Thematic Priority 5, “Strengthened space cooperation for global health,” JAXA in cooperation with WHO have been working together to contribute to Polio eradication. Polio remains a threat to those who live with underdeveloped hygienic sewage systems. Its propagation, reinfection, and efficacy of countermeasures can be monitored by detecting the Polio virus from water samples in sewage. Since epidemic areas are widely distributed and located in remote areas, WHO needs to narrow down their locations to collect water samples. To help the work of WHO, JAXA provides a 3-D view of the Earth using both a digital elevation model and satellite images, which enables us to estimate the source of pollution. This technology is being tested in Nigeria. Through this cooperation, Japan also contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 3 “Good health and well-being.”

As for Thematic Priority 6, “International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies,” Japanese remote sensing satellites continuously contribute to the creation of a low-emission and resilient society. JAXA, in cooperation with NASA, ESA, CNES, DLR and other space agencies, supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement using the remote sensing data of greenhouse gases and related parameters. Moreover, Japan contributes to furthering international cooperation in the area of earth observation. Japan will host the Plenary of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations, GEO, in Kyoto this coming fall.

With respect to Thematic Priority 7, “Capacity-building for the twenty-first century,” I would like to introduce two Japanese initiatives in collaboration with OOSA.

The first is the KiboCUBE. KiboCUBE offers an educational or research institution from an emerging country of UN membership the opportunity to deploy a CubeSat from the Japanese Experiment Module, Kibo of the ISS. KiboCUBE is a dedicated collaboration between OOSA and JAXA, which began in September 2015 to offer the opportunity to deploy CubeSat from Kibo. On the first day of the UNISPACE+50 Symposium, we announced that a team from *the Republic of Mauritius* has been selected for the third round of KiboCUBE.

The other initiative is the “United Nations/Japan Long-term Fellowship Program on Nano-Satellite Technologies” by the Kyushu Institute of Technology, Kyutech, in cooperation with OOSA. The program offers students the opportunity to conduct extensive research of nano-satellite systems under the aim of nurturing future leaders, who can use outer space for peaceful purposes and sustainable development.

Japan is convinced that the peaceful uses of outer space is key to prosperity in the next 50 years. Space technology has allowed us to accumulate fundamental knowledge of the universe, education, health, environment, communications and more. Gathered here at UNISPACE+50, we shall plan ahead for the next 50 years. Undeniably, space technologies can address the unprecedented challenges for sustainable development. Let us declare that we will be actively engaged in the peaceful uses of outer space.