

Agenda Item 14 – “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”

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Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan recognizes the common interest of all humankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and is of the view that activities in exploration and utilization of space resources are of great potential significance for further development of outer space activities of humankind, as well as for the sustainable development on earth.

Japan is of the view that debate on rules and norms on activities in exploration and utilization of space resources should secure the sustainability of future space exploration with encouraging the innovation by all players including industries, as well as ensuring those activities are consistent with the existing international norms. Discussion should evolve in a way that reflect the actual technology, economic reality and needs of industry, as well as the national space exploration programs. In this respect, Japan welcomes the lively discussion and exchange of views in the Legal Subcommittee in the comprehensive manner.

I would like to introduce Japan's recent activities related to space resources.

Last October, Japan signed the Artemis Accords as a political commitment to establish the set of principles for civil space exploration activities and the use of outer space by civil space agencies. The Artemis Accords acknowledge that the utilization of space resources can benefit humankind by providing critical support for safe and sustainable operations, and these activities should be executed in a manner that complies with the Outer Space Treaty. Japan is committed to pursue our utilization of space resources in a way consistent with the Artemis Accords and other related international norms.

As Japan considers that it is important that all stakeholders closely cooperate with each other so that future activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources will develop in a proper and pragmatic manner and in accordance with the international law, Japan welcomes the discussions outside of COPUOS as well. Japan has been participating in the Hague Space Resource Governance Working Group and the Moon Village Association as observer status, and we will continue to participate in the discussions.

Thank you for your kind attention.