

Agenda Item 12– “LTS”

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Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

As the number of players in the space sector continues to grow, Japan recognizes the importance of effective rule-making and the implementation of these rules for ensuring 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. In this regard, Japan welcomes the establishment of a new working group on LTS, LTS 2.0 WG, under the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Japan encourages all States to decide on the LTS 2.0 WG bureau and initiate substantive discussions as soon as possible.

In this regard, Japan welcomes the initiative led by UNOOSA and the UK space agency for awareness raising and capacity building related to the implementation of the LTS Guidelines. From Japan, ispace as a commercial company and the Cabinet Office as a governmental regulator took part in the series of promoting space sustainability events focusing on case studies and shared their good practices to ensure that the outer space environment is preserved for current and future generations.

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Allow us to briefly introduce some examples of how Japan implements the LTS guidelines.

The LTS Guidelines address the enhancement of registering space objects and information exchange on space objects and orbital events. Japan provides such information to the international community in accordance with international norms such as the 1975 Registration Convention and through national mechanisms such as the “Act on Launching of Spacecraft, etc. and Control of Spacecraft.” Japan encourages efficient communication and increased transparency and confidence-building measures in all States to support the safety of space operation.

The LTS Guidelines also address the adoption, revision, and amendment of national regulatory frameworks and supervision of national space activities. Japan's Basic Space Law established in 2008 comprehensively and systematically promotes Japan's space development and use in order to improve the lives of its citizens, as well as national economic development, international peace and the welfare of humankind as a whole. To this end, Japan adopted national space act in 2016, "The Act on Launching of Spacecraft, etc. and Control of Spacecraft." Under this national space act, Japan established authorization schemes, including launch permission and license to control a satellite.

Japan has also been cooperating with countries of the Asia-Pacific in this area under an APRSAF initiative called "National Space Legislation Initiative." This initiative aims to promote information sharing and mutual learning on the practices and examples of national space legislation and policies in the region, and to enhance the countries' capacity to draft and implement their national space legislation and policies in accordance with international norms. Together with Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam, Japan submitted the Report on the Status of the National Space Legislation of Countries of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI) to Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS and it will be circulated in all UN official languages in the next Legal Subcommittee in August.

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.