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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Legal Subcommittee

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

**Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the
peaceful exploration and use of outer space**

**Japanese contribution to “Review of international
mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and
use of outer space”**

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1. Overview

1. Japan takes part in numerous multilateral cooperation efforts for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. A considerable number of non-binding cooperation mechanisms/frameworks have emerged over the last decade or two and the success brought by them has been remarkable. In addition to our contribution submitted last year, Japan contributes to facilitate their activities and operations under the following frameworks.

2. Space Exploration

2. The International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF) is a high level forum to discuss the future of international cooperation in the field of space exploration particularly in terms of the need for multilateral cooperation in the post International Space Station era. The first meeting of the ISEF took place in Washington D.C., Japan will contribute to the ISEF by hosting the second meeting scheduled to take place in 2016 or 2017.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.292.



3. Satellite Navigation

3. International Committee on GNSS (ICG) established under the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2006 is a forum in which providers of navigation satellite systems, user nations and international organizations participate in. Participants get involved in discussions of issues related to and exchanges of information related to the global and regional navigation satellite systems as well as making international rules and coordinating the technical policies among the relevant nations and regions.

4. Japan actively participates in the ICG as a provider nation while presenting the content of projects and progresses made in relation to the Quasi-zenith satellite system (QZSS). Furthermore, Japan participates in the working groups and contributes to the operation of a sub-working group under WG-A (Compatibility and Interoperability of Global and Regional Navigation Satellite Systems and Satellite-based Augmentations) by serving as a co-chair. Japan hosted the sixth meeting of the ICG in Tokyo in 2011 and is planning to host its twelfth meeting in 2017.

4. Earth Observation

(1) Group on Earth Observation (GEO)

5. The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a voluntary framework of cooperation between governments and international organizations aiming to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, GEO Members currently include 89 governments, the European Commission and 67 intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations. Japan has been one of the leading partners of the GEO by endorsing the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and serving as one of its executive committee members.

(2) Sentinel Asia

6. Sentinel Asia is the world's biggest non-binding multilateral mechanism between space agencies and disaster management agencies. It applies remote sensing and Web-GIS technologies to support disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region that consists of 91 organizations including 77 organizations from 25 countries/regions and 14 international organizations as of January 2014.

7. With the recognition of the necessity to utilize space technology to reduce society's suffering from the damages caused by natural disasters coupled with the desire to promote international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, in 2005, Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-12) held at Kita-Kyushu, Japan gave its approval for Sentinel Asia to initiate the pilot project. In February 2006, the Joint Project Team (JPT) was organized and Sentinel Asia was born.

8. Sentinel Asia had taken a step-by-step approach to achieve a practical formulation of system and network. At APRSAF-19 held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2012, recommendations were adopted for Sentinel Asia to launch the final phase as Step-3 starting from 2013 with the goal to expand activities to cover different phases of the disaster management — mitigation/preparedness phase,

response phase and recovery phase — utilizing various satellites such as Earth observation, communication and navigation satellites, under further collaboration for operation and human networking by the Joint Project Team.

9. Sentinel Asia is composed of Joint Project Team members and Node members (Data Provider Node, Data Analysis Node). The “Terms of Reference” defines the membership, responsibilities, operation and other terms related to the Joint Project Team for Sentinel Asia Step-3, established to promote disaster information-sharing projects as initiated under the Sentinel Asia Project which comprises international cooperation on a best effort basis.

10. Under the TOR, Sentinel Asia develops and maintains “Sentinel Asia Step-3 Implementation Plan (IP)” defining all activities under discussion items. In the IP, JAXA is identified as the JPT secretariat and continues to hold this role until the rotation mechanism starts. JAXA also actively lead the operation of Sentinel Asia system and activities of all phases.

(3) International Charter on Space and Major Disaster (Disaster Charter)

11. The International Charter on Space and Major Disaster, operational since 2000, is a successful voluntary cooperation mechanism among space remote sensing satellite operators to provide satellite images free of charge to countries affected by disasters, based on the “Charter On Cooperation To Achieve The Coordinated Use Of Space Facilities In The Event Of Natural Or Technological Disasters”.

12. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has been an active partner of the Disaster Charter assisting with damage assessments and rescue operations by providing satellite images from Advance Land Observation Satellite (ALOS) from 2006 to 2011. After the completion of the ALOS operation, JAXA continues to provide archive data of ALOS as requested from Disaster Charter. JAXA has also installed its High-Definition Television Camera system on the International Space Station (ISS), named KIBO HDTV-EF, remote-controlled Video Camera system to observe disasters. The system has been utilized for the operation of the Disaster Charter since 2013.