Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Space exploration represents a major challenge to humanity in our quest to explore new frontiers, gain knowledge and expand human presence deeper into space. Japan has been participating in this challenging endeavor in cooperation with our international partners.

Chair,

Allow me to illustrate some of Japan's efforts in this regard.

In the field of lunar exploration, with a view to contributing to future international exploration in the solar system, Japan signed an Implementing Arrangement with NASA to cooperate on a pressurized lunar rover and to provide two flight opportunities for Japanese astronauts to the lunar surface. . Furthermore, Japan's Lunar mission in January, the SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon), achieved the first pinpoint landing in history, as Dr. Shinichiro SAKAI, SLIM Project Manager of JAXA has touched upon in his technical presentation on Friday, June 21st. We believe that this achievement will accelerate international space exploration to be carried out by governments and private entities. JAXA is also developing the Lunar Polar Exploration mission (LUPEX) in collaboration with ISRO, which aims to investigate the presence of water and the possibility of resource utilization in the lunar polar region.

Beyond the moon, the Martian Moons eXploration, (MMX), the world's first collaborative scientific mission to collect samples from Phobos, one of the Martian moons, is currently under development in collaboration with CNES, DLR, NASA and ESA.

The Artemis Accords, signed by Japan in 2020, will also promote peaceful exploration and contribute to the establishment of principles for the new stage of exploration and use of outer space.

Chair,

Apart from these developments, the Japanese private sector is also working toward lunar activities, including the exploration of lunar resources.

Over the years, the Japanese government has recognized the importance of working with the Japanese industry on space exploration.

As an example of promoting this collaboration, JAXA’s Space Exploration Innovation Hub Center has been working with companies, universities, and research institutes on research and the development of technologies that will contribute to future space exploration, such as automatic and autonomous exploration technology, In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) technology, and common technology adopted for both space and non-space sectors.

Chair,

Space exploration is in the common interest of all humankind and the ultimate challenge to explore new frontiers. Moreover, we believe that these space exploration endeavors are a great opportunity to benefit humanity by contributing to the development of science and technology on Earth as well as promoting social awareness among young people and advancing economic development. Together with our international partners, Japan would like to participate in this spectacular challenge by offering our technical expertise for the benefit of humanity.

Thank you for your kind attention.