

Japan Item 7 – “Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty session”

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aprsaChair, Distinguished delegates,

For Japan, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) provides a unique and important platform to promote international cooperation in the field of outer space. Japan would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Chair of the Subcommittee, Ms. Ulpia-Elena Botezatu, for her excellent work.

Chair,

Given the rapid evolution of the outer space environment and of related technologies, the LTS Guidelines are increasingly becoming an important tool to address the issues of space debris, the growing complexity of space operations, and the increasing risks of collision and interference that affect the sustainability of space activities.

During discussions of the LTS 2.0 Working Group chaired under the excellent leadership of Mr. Umamaheswaran, Japan provides input on space debris and raises awareness among member states of the importance of the implementation of LTS Guidelines in cooperation with the National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI) under APRSAF. We will continue to contribute to the Working Group and look forward to fruitful discussions during this and future sessions.

Chair,

Japan believes that addressing space debris is an urgent and collective endeavor. In this regard, we are keen to contribute to international cooperation towards rule-making for both debris mitigation and remediation measures.

Please allow us to introduce two of Japan’s national efforts in this regard. The first is on the research and development of Active Debris Removal (ADR). JAXA and Astroscale Japan, a private orbital debris removal company, are collaborating on the Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration (CRD2) project. The demonstration satellite was launched in

February of this year and is currently underway to demonstrate ADR technology as Mr. OKADA, CEO of Astroscale Holdings explained in his technical presentation on Friday, June 21st.

The second is that Japan has established national guidelines to ensure the safe and transparent operation of on-orbit servicing, including for ADR services. To ensure safety and transparency, Japan’s national guidelines require entities conducting on-orbit services to obtain consent from the entity that has the authority to oversee the client’s object and further requires them to share key information including basic orbital parameters and the names of SSA organizations to which the servicer’s ephemeris is to be informed in advance of the planned on-orbit service.

The above-mentioned CRD2 project was carried out in compliance with these guidelines and published its plan on the government’s website in advance of operating the service for the sake of transparency. Japan stands ready to share its knowledge and practice with other countries and encourages them to establish similar guidelines for licensing on-orbit servicing.

Chair,

The topic of Space Traffic Management (STM) is continually being discussed in Japan as it pertains to the space related activities of Japanese private entities in the near future. In March 2024, the Government of Japan updated the Mid to Long-term Policy on Efforts for Rule-Making on the Use of Earth Orbit with a focus on collision avoidance, space situational awareness, debris mitigation and remediation and large constellations.

Chair,

Considering the increasing number of space operations, it is important to monitor solar activities and the space environment as a whole for the safety and sustainability of our outer space activities. The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) has made continuous contributions to the formulation of an international space weather framework, including the publication of the “Final report of the Expert Group on Space

Weather: towards improved international coordination for space weather services” (A/AC.105C. 1/L.401) in 2022.

Chair,

Japan is of the view that Planetary Defense is a significant issue that we should address collectively through international cooperation against threats on Earth and to human life. In this regard, we are pleased to inform you that JAXA has recently established a specific agency-wide team to address Planetary Defense. Also, bearing in mind that the asteroid Apophis is approaching the Earth in 2029, we support the proposal by IAWN and SMPAG to designate the year 2029 as “UN International year of asteroid awareness and planetary defense,” which we believe will significantly contribute to raising awareness of the public concerning this imperative issue and accelerating international cooperation.

Chair,

Japan recognizes that STSC has been a driver of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We encourage all members and observers of this Committee to be part of this movement. For its part, Japan will continue its efforts in research, exploration, and international cooperation for the benefit of humankind.

Thank you for your attention.