



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 68th Session

25 June – 2 July 2025

Item 5 : Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

As space activities continue to diversify, Japan reaffirms the importance of upholding the rule of law in outer space. We urge all States to give due consideration to the safety, sustainability, and stability of the outer space environment during their activities.

In this regard, Japan wished to emphasize the significance of the UNGA resolution on Weapons of Mass Destruction in Outer Space, the importance of ensuring sustainability in outer space and the necessity of international cooperation.

Last December, Japan, together with the United States and Argentina, submitted a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly which reaffirms the obligation of all States parties to fully comply with the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant treaties. The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority, underscores the broad international consensus on maintaining the rule of law for the peaceful uses of outer space.

Chair

Given the rapid evolution of the outer space environment and of related technologies, the guidelines for long-term sustainability (LTS) of outer space activities are more relevant than ever, especially as space debris, is becoming an increasing threat to our daily lives, given our growing reliance on space assets. As Minister KIUCHI mentioned in his statement under Agenda Item 4 and during our side event, Japan is taking proactive steps to target space debris by launching a new domestic initiative on debris.

Moreover, the Japanese government has been providing for the research and development initiatives of Japanese companies through a program entitled the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase 3.

Chair,

Japan remains committed to participating in various international cooperation projects for the peaceful uses of outer space as it promotes mutual understanding, enhances transparency, and builds confidence among nations. I would like to highlight three activities in this regard.

The first is the KiboCUBE program. This joint program between UNOOSA and JAXA supports developing countries in deploying their CubeSats from the Japanese “Kibo” module on the ISS. This year marks the program’s 10th anniversary.

During this afternoon’s side event, we announced the beginning of the 9th round of applications of the KiboCUBE program. We look forward to receiving applications from all interested member states.

The second activity is the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). The memorable APRSAF-30 held in November 2024 in Perth, Australia witnessed the revision of “Nagoya Vision”, which states, inter alia, the APRSAF community’s further commitment to promoting the development of sustainable space activities, enhancing human resources and capabilities including law and policy, and promoting the growth of the private space sector in the Asia-Pacific region.

Later this year, the Philippines and Japan will cohost the 31st session of APRSAF from November 18 to 21 on Cebu Island. We invite all interested parties to join us for this important event.

The third activity I’d like to mention is a program headed by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), which is the implementing agency of Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA). Given the rapid changes in

both internal and external space sector environments, JICA plans to release a revised strategy on space in coming weeks to strengthen its activities on utilization of space related technologies and earth observation data for the development of socio-economics and human resources in developing countries.

In relation to its strategy, JICA will host a thematic event during TICAD 9 (the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development), which will be held in Yokohama in August. JICA is committed to fostering stronger collaboration in the global space community and making meaningful contributions to SDGs achievement.

Thank you for your attention.