

Japan



Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee 64th Session

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Japan Item 10: General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan would like to share our conviction on the importance of non-legally binding instruments under this agenda.

Space is no longer a distant frontier. It is integral to our economies, and our communications. As space activities expand at an unprecedented rate, so too do the challenges we face in maintaining order, and sustainability in this new domain. These challenges cannot be addressed by any single nation or entity alone. To navigate this complexity, we must not only adhere to existing legally binding international space laws but also take steps to strengthen and expand what we may call "soft laws" or non-legally binding instruments, including principles and guidelines that foster cooperation without compromising sovereignty.

To turn these soft laws into tangible, enforceable frameworks, national legislation is crucial. When countries establish robust space laws, they do more than ensure order within their own borders—they actively shape the emerging norms for international space governance. In this context, the development of national space laws serves not simply domestic needs but also the broadening of the international framework that governs space activities.

Particularly this is true to address emerging and urgent issues. Space debris is a pressing issue that needs our immediate attention. The problem of space debris is severe and poses significant risks to our current and future space activities. It is a challenge that the international community must tackle without delay. Approach of non-legally binding instruments is of a high value.

Space debris mitigation and remediation are two critical approaches that can effectively address this issue. Japan has been taking a proactive and targeted approach to space debris mitigation. Japan respects to the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) Guidelines by incorporating them into Japanese national guidelines and space activities. This is an example of how national legislation acts as the soft law to ensure the safe and sustainable outer space.

Thank you for your kind attention.