

Japan



Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee 64th Session

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Japan Item 11: General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

In recent years, outer space has become congested due to a rapidly increasing number of space objects. Destructive actions such as Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests have also spurred congestion, posing a growing threat to the sustainable and stable use of outer space. In this regard, Japan welcomes the adoption of the Pact for the Future with a view to strengthen international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humanity.

For Japan, securing the stable, safe and sustainable use of the outer space environment is of the utmost importance. Japan encourages all States to work towards ensuring sustainable Space Traffic Management (STM).

Chair,

In line with Japanese “Mid-to-Long-Term Policy for Rule-Making on the Use of Earth Orbit”, which was revised in March 2024, Japan is promoting space traffic management initiatives, as well as SSA and on-orbit services. Let me highlight some of our recent efforts.

Space Situational Awareness (SSA) remains a priority for Japan.

Japan's Ministry of Defense developed an SSA system that became fully operational in March 2023. We also began sharing SSA information, such as orbital information of space objects, with private satellite operators. This SSA system will enable greater visibility in space and more accurate avoidance of orbital collisions.

In order to ensure the safe, secure and transparent operation of on-orbit servicing (OOS), Japan established national OOS guidelines in 2021, prescribing technical safety requirements to ensure the transparency of OOS operations. JAXA has been developing technologies for rendezvous and proximity operations through a project called CRD2 (Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration), which conducts its activities in accordance with the OOS guidelines. Phase 1 of the project was successfully completed in 2024. Phase 2 already began and a demonstration including debris capture, is scheduled for Japanese fiscal year of 2027.

In February 2025, Japan established new national guidelines to prevent the collision of space objects. These guidelines provide an example of the concept and specific measures to avoid collisions with other satellites or space debris, or to reduce the possibility of such collisions as much as possible.

We hope that countries considering licensing on-orbit servicing will establish standards and guidelines similar to Japan's, including those related to transparency, so that we can create a business environment in which these services can operate securely.

Chair,

In the same month, the Cabinet Office of Japan hosted the “*10th International Symposium on Ensuring the Safe and Sustainable Use of Outer Space*”, inviting our own OOSA Director Ms. Holla-Maini as well as many distinguished guests from governments, academia, and industry, with a focus on rulemaking and cooperation to ensure the stable use of orbit. Throughout the Symposium, panelists and participants discussed the

opportunities and challenges to realize a globally coordinated effort to this end.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Japan's commitment to contribute to international discussions on space traffic management to ensure the stable use of outer space for present and future generations.

Thank you for your kind attention.