Japan

Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee 64th Session
May 5 – 16, 2025
Japan Item 9: General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

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 international community must tackle without delay. Japan strongly encourages all States to carry out their space activities in a cooperative and sustainable manner to prevent the creation and dissemination of long-lived orbital debris.

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 adheres to the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) Guidelines by incorporating them into Japanese national guidelines and space activities.

In February 2025, Japan implemented new guidelines, specifically targeting the prevention of satellite collisions. The guidelines call for the establishment of an organizational structure and decision-making criteria for collision risk management, and call for the development of

recommendations to advance collision avoidance. The guidelines aim to raise the level of competence of operators, especially those with little experience in satellite operations, and thus contribute to the safety and facilitation of orbital use.

However, focusing solely on mitigation is not enough. International community must also invest in remediation efforts. In this regard, Japan has been exploring ways to remove large space debris for space environmental remediation. JAXA and the Japanese start-up company Astroscale are collaborating to implement the Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration, known as the CRD2 project. So far, this project has successfully acquired images of the target space debris and successfully approached the target within 15 meters.

Chair,

Despite advances that have been made in remediation technologies, the existing international guidelines do not appear to effectively govern the use of such technologies or establish international norms. It is imperative to address and raise awareness of the need for international norms. Japan has already taken concrete actions by establishing domestic legal frameworks that align with this vision. Japan's Guidelines on licensing On-Orbit Servicing stipulate the requirements for the execution of safe, and transparent on-orbit operations. These efforts not only strengthen our national governance but also contribute to shaping a possible global framework capable of addressing future challenges.

The stability and sustainability of outer space can only be achieved through technological advancements and the establishment of effective international norms. To this end, Japan is ready to share the knowledge and insights gained from its national activities with the global community.
Japan believes that by taking proactive steps, especially in the development and implementation of international norms, a safer and more sustainable future for space activities can be ensured. This in turn, will benefit not just our own nation but the entire global community.

Thank you for your attention.