

# ***Japan***

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## **Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

### **Legal Subcommittee 64th Session**

**May 5 – 16, 2025**

#### **Japan Item 5: Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation.**

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

In recent years, the number of players in the space sector has grown to an unprecedented level, leading to the diversification and expansion of space activities. In such an evolving environment, Japan would like to reiterate the importance of the United Nations treaties on outer space. We urge all Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Outer Space Treaty without delay or conditions.

Complementing these treaties are several principles, declarations and guidelines for the peaceful uses of outer space in the form of UN General Assembly resolutions, which have been developed in the Committee since the early 1980s. Their importance is undeniable.

Chair,

Given the growth in space activities, Japan recognizes the importance of providing educational and training opportunities, and facilitating the exchange of information, to enhance capacity building in space law and ensure that space activities are carried out in accordance with the treaties and other international norms.

Since 2019, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) has been facilitating an important regional cooperation measure known as the National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI). This initiative aims to promote information sharing and mutual learning on the practices of national legislation and policies in the Asia-Pacific region. The NSLI also helps to build the capacities of Asia-Pacific countries by assisting with the drafting and implementation of national space legislation and policies, in line with international norms.

The significance of the NSLI has increased, particularly through the ‘Nagoya Vision,’ which was revised at the memorable APRSAF-30 conference held in Perth, Australia in November 2024. There the APRSAF community pledged to develop sustainable space activities, enhance human resources and capabilities (including in law and policy), and promote the growth of the private space sector in the Asia-Pacific region.

Following the first and second NSLI reports in 2021 and 2023 respectively, the third NSLI report is scheduled for joint submission to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of COPUOS next month. This report will highlight the efforts of each NSLI member state, including those made through the Artemis Accords, as well as the contributions of NSLI member states to the work of COPUOS such as the LTS WG, the LTS Guidelines, and the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Activities.

Additionally, Japan has been collaborating with UNOOSA on the ‘Space Law for New Space Actors’ project since 2021 to support capacity building in Asia-Pacific countries, especially emerging spacefaring nations. Following the regional technical advisory mission hosted in Tokyo in January 2024, Japan and UNOOSA have held two technical advisory missions: one in the Philippines in November 2024 with the tremendous support from the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and the other in Thailand in January of this year with support from the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA).

During these missions, participants learned important elements of national authorization and continuing supervision of space activities. Japan is committed to continue supporting this project for Asia-Pacific countries.

Chair,

The Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition was held in Japan in March 2025. Since the first Asia-Pacific round in 2000, JAXA has supported the winning team by covering their travel expenses to the final round.

We believe that participating in the Space Law Moot Court Competition, with its discussion and analysis of important legal issues of international space law was a valuable experience for the participants and contributed to the development of human resources in the field of space law.

Japan is committed to continuing capacity-building efforts in cooperation with UNOOSA and our partners. Thank you for your kind attention.