

Japan Item 5 – “Space for sustainable development: technology and its applications, including the United Nations Programme on Space Applications”

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Space technology is an important tool for solving global issues and supporting the sustainability of life on earth. In this regard, Japan welcomes the establishment of this agenda item, which consolidates the three existing agendas. On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to present Japan’s contributions to the sustainable development through space technology and its applications.

Chair,

For some years now, Japan has been cooperating with UNOOSA to promote the “KiboCUBE” programme, launched in 2015 as a capacity-building initiative between JAXA and UNOOSA. This programme offers educational and research institutions in developing countries the opportunity to deploy CubeSats from the Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” of the ISS.

So far, CubeSats developed by teams from Kenya, Guatemala, Mauritius, Indonesia, and Moldova, winners of previous rounds have been deployed from the ISS through the KiboCUBE programme. With the sole exception of Indonesia, each of the CubeSats was their country’s first satellite. In light of these achievements, JAXA and UNOOSA have extended the KiboCUBE programme until 2030, with the winners of the 8th round to be announced in June this year.

Japan also continues to promote the utilization of “Kibo” to maximize its outcomes. One example is an international educational outreach program called the “Kibo Robot Programming Challenge (Kibo-RPC),” run by JAXA and NASA, that caters to students in the Asia Pacific region. Participants of the Kibo-RPC will learn cutting-edge methodologies and hone their skills in STEM, teamwork, and creativity, helping to develop innovative minds through this unique program. Last year, in the 4th round of the Kibo-RPC program, JAXA partnered with UNOOSA and provided a slot for students from emerging space-faring countries outside of the Asia-Pacific region to participate in these activities as well. With UNOOSA, we were able to expand the participation of this program to 50 teams from 19

countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Asia-Pacific. JAXA and UNOOSA will collaborate again on the 5th round of the program this year.

Chair,

As part of Japan's contributions to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech), in cooperation with UNOOSA, offers students from emerging space faring nations the opportunity to participate in the Post-Graduate Study on Nano-Satellite Technology (PNST) fellowship program. As part of the program, students take part in the development of a nano-satellite and use the testing facilities available at Kyutech. Kyutech provides them with the hands-on training needed to become competent space engineers so that they can immediately contribute to the development of a national space program when they return to their homelands.

Chair,

Japan has been developing and operating Earth observation satellites for about 40 years and promoting the use of satellite data to address global challenges such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, and deforestation, all of which are expected to contribute to sustainable development.

In this regard, Japan has developed and launched two satellites so far, namely GOSAT, the world's first satellite dedicated to GHG monitoring launched in 2009 and GOSAT-2 launched in 2018. By leveraging the cutting-edge GOSAT series, Japan will continue to support global efforts to reduce GHG emissions to combat climate change under the Paris Agreement using global observation to monitor the sources of anthropogenic GHG emissions and to estimate emissions and their removal on a global-scale.

Another initiative led by JAXA and its partners is the "Global Mangrove Watch". This is a map created from data generated by L-band radar satellites and optical Earth observation satellites, which contributes to monitoring mangrove vegetation and producing national statistics to monitor SDG indicator 6.6.1.

In addition to observing greenhouse gases and mangroves, Japan firmly believes that long-term and continuous Earth observation in collaboration with

various stakeholders will contribute to the sustainability of our planet.

Also, in terms of gender equality (SDG5), last year, a JAXA expert participated in the 2023 Space4Women Expert Meeting, co-hosted by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and UNOOSA last Autumn. We congratulate CSA, the distinguished delegate of Canada, and UNOOSA, with appreciation for their effort, on the successful outcome of the Expert Meeting, notably the shaping of “Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit (GMT)”.

Chair,

Finally, Japan is committed to continuously contributing to the sustainable space development and applications, and Japan is also determined to further our efforts to benefit all of humanity through our space activities.

Thank you for your attention.