

Japan Item 6

“Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation”

# *Japan*

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

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In recent years, the number of players in the space sector has been increasing, resulting in the diversification of space activities. In such an evolving environment, Japan would like to reiterate that the United Nations treaties on outer space are even more crucial, and appeal to all Member States which have not yet done so to become parties to the Outer Space Treaty without delay and without conditions.

Moreover, several principles, declarations and guidelines for the peaceful uses of outer space in the form of UN General Assembly resolutions have been developed in the Committee since the early 1980s. Japan acknowledges the important role that these resolutions have played in complementing the existing treaties.

Japan has developed and reviews, as necessary, a series of national laws on outer space activities in order to properly implement the treaties and guidelines

Chair,

Japan attaches great importance to providing education and training opportunities, and to facilitating the exchange of information for enhancing capacity building in space law to ensure that space activities are carried out pursuant to the treaties and other international norms.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) has facilitated an important regional cooperation measure known as the National Space

Legislation Initiative (NSLI). The 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 contributes to the capacity building of Asia-Pacific countries by assisting in the drafting and implementation of national space legislation and policies, in line with international norms.

Last year, during the 66th session of COPUOS, the NSLI, along with 12 countries, namely Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Türkiye, and Viet Nam, submitted its second report on national space legislation, which included the implementation status of the LTS Guidelines in each country. Also, in commemoration of the submission of the NSLI report, the APRSAF Secretariat and the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) jointly organized a COPUOS side event, titled “the 3rd Inter-Regional Space Policy Dialogue Between the Asia-Pacific and Europe.” The event aimed to shed light on topical issues including the implementation of LTS guidelines. Following the achievements of the NSLI, a positive outcome of the 29th APRSAF held in Indonesia in 2023, the 3rd phase of NSLI has been launched.

Additionally, Japan has been working 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. As part of this cooperation, we successfully hosted a regional technical advisory mission in Tokyo in January this year, which brought together more than 20 participants from seven countries, namely Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Thailand. 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.

Last fiscal year, Gakushuin University held the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition 2023 in Japan. Since the 1st Asia-Pacific Round in 2000, JAXA has been supporting the winning team by covering the team’s travel expense to the final round.

Furthermore, we are pleased to introduce a couple of notable activities undertaken by the University of Tokyo and Keio University.

The University of Tokyo's Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI) has organized the "Academic Platform for Space Policy and Law in Japan," which provides academic materials, news, and knowledge related to space policy and law for educational purposes in English. Since the establishment of the Center for Space Law at the Keio University in 2012, a series of space law workshops and seminars have been held with the participation of space law experts from abroad. We are proud of both university-led initiatives, which expand knowledge of space policy and law to a wider audience of future professionals.

Thank you for your kind attention.