



**Statement by Mr. Namioka Daisuke, Deputy Permanent Representative,
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Open-ended Working Group on the Prevention of an Arms Race
in Outer Space (PAROS) in All Its Aspects
(July 22 2025)**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to commend and thank you, Ambassador Carlos Mario Foradori, for your courage, leadership, and tenacious efforts to date as the Chairperson of this Open-Ended Working Group. We fully understand how challenging this role is and I believe this is one of the most challenging chairmanship roles in Geneva today. For this reason, let me emphasize that I assure you and the Bureau of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Japan welcomes that we are seeing the convergence of different views among the delegations on the procedural matters of this open-ended working group. We must use our limited time and resources to advance substantial discussions on one of the most pressing issues facing the international community today. It is imperative that this OEWG respects the mandate set forth in the UNGA decision 79/512, which would replace the two open-ended working groups established by resolutions 78/20 and 78/238. In this regard, Japan also appreciates and commends the flexibility and creativity demonstrated by our colleagues so far in overcoming differences among us.

Mr. Chair,

Outer space is one of the most critical domains for our present and future security and prosperity. Every aspect of our daily lives and the functioning of our society are closely connected to outer space, from basic infrastructure to sustainable development to national security. There is a new urgency for effective measures to ensure security, stability, and sustainability of activities in outer space. Advancing rulemaking on space security is, therefore, the most pressing challenge in our lifetime.

Japan reiterates its strong commitment in this regard and supports the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space as its unwavering basic position. As one of the leading spacefaring nations, Japan is strongly committed to maintaining outer space as a peaceful, safe, stable, secure and sustainable environment as well as to reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible

behaviors. My delegation will actively contribute to discussions aimed at promoting the development of international norms and rules for the use of outer space, including from the perspective of national security.

Mr. Chair,

It is essential for us to recognize the evolving nature of the PAROS agenda. The political, economic, and social environment surrounding outer space is different from what we saw in the 2000s. Outer space has become and remains becoming increasingly congested, contested, and competitive. We are witnessing increasing numbers of space actors, particularly the rapid emergence of private-sector entities, and the diversification of space activities, the development and deployment of counterspace capabilities of those actors, and more intense and accelerated technological competition, including those of dual-use nature, along with some actors lacking transparency regarding space doctrines, policies and activities, which could escalate tension and may even led to conflict.

In this regard, Japan emphasizes that this OEWG needs to apply a more holistic, inclusive, and comprehensive approach--overcoming traditional dichotomy of LBIs and non-LBIs--and establish a common and in-depth understanding of space threats and risks by engaging various emerging space actors and beneficiaries of space systems. My delegation has a high hope that such dialogues in this OEWG would serve as a catalyst to pave the way to more transparency and trust among different actors and put our space dialogues forward, not backward.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to draw attention to the fact that despite the confrontational environment at the time of the Cold War, the international community managed to establish legal frameworks to ensure the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, fostering from various non-legally binding norms. Today, based on these existing legal and normative frameworks, there is an urgent need for the international community to deepen its understanding of the current state of play and consider practical and pragmatic way to enhance security and prevent an arms race in outer space. We need to go back to the basics and start our conversations to deal with this evolving challenges of PAROS from recognizing the most fundamental principle that it is our common responsibility to fully comply with the existing legal frameworks, including the Outer Space Treaty.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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