



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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STATEMENT BY JAPAN  
AT THE MEETING OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE 78<sup>th</sup> SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- THEMATIC DEBATE: OUTER SPACE -  
OCTOBER, 2023 NEW YORK

Mr. Chair,

The importance of outer space is significantly increasing and its use involves every aspect of our lives and societies, such as the global navigation systems which support both civilian and military activities. As space actors and activities increase and evolve, it is in our common interest for current and future generations to maintain and ensure the security, stability and sustainability of outer space activities. Therefore, advancing rule-making on space security is an imminent challenge for all.

In this context, Japan reiterates its strong commitment to ensuring the security, stability and sustainability of outer space activities and supports the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space as our unwavering basic position. As stated in the Space Security Initiative issued in June this year, in which the Government of Japan redefined its space policy in terms of security, Japan will actively contribute to discussions and promote the development of international norms and rules for the use of outer space, including from a security perspective.

Japan highly appreciates the inclusive and comprehensive discussions at the Open-ended Working Group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors, thanks to the able chairmanship of Mr. Hellmut Lagos of Chile. Although it is regrettable that no consensus was reached on the substantial report and even on the procedural one, the abundance of working papers and interactive dialogues amongst the member states coupled with the participation of non-governmental stakeholders demonstrated keen interest in our common endeavor for reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior. In this connection, we welcome the submission of the Chairperson's Summary (A/AC.294/2023/WP.22) to this OEWG, which provides a useful basis for advancing our future discussions on this topic.

At the OEWG's discussions, many Member States, including Japan, have emphasized the need to take into account the dual-use nature of space systems in addressing space threats, and we have also seen concrete ideas on potential norms of responsible behaviors, as indicated in the Chairperson's Summary. Wide cross-regional support for the work of the OEWG and its continuation was evident in the deliberations of the final session of the group. Japan considers this responsible behavior approach to be a practical way forward in advancing the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in a comprehensive manner and strongly supports the continuation of discussions on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors by re-establishing an OEWG in 2025, as proposed in the draft

resolution presented by the UK to this Committee. Japan is happy to co-sponsor this draft resolution.

Japan also welcomes the “Recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space” that was adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in April.

With a view to making progress in our common endeavor, we also underline the importance of synergies among multilateral disarmament machineries such as the Conference on Disarmament and other bodies of the United Nations, and look forward to participating in the meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts on further practical measures for preventing an arms race in outer space starting this November.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for your kind attention.

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