



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative,
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Subsidiary Body 3
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Since this is my first time taking the floor under your leadership as the Coordinator of this Subsidiary Body, let me begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Frank TRESSLER ZAMORANO, on your assumption of this important responsibility. I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation as you carry out your duties.

Mr. Coordinator,

Regardless of country or region, our security and socio-economic prosperity is becoming more reliant than ever on Space. For instance, satellite communication as well as positioning, navigation and timing services are fundamental and integrated part of our daily life and security.

The peaceful and sustainable use of Space, however, is now facing an ever-growing risk. As the uses of Space become diversified and the number of state and non-state actors also increase, Space is becoming more congested, competitive and contested. We are also witnessing the development and deployment of counterspace capabilities including direct ascent ASAT weapons as well as insufficient transparency regarding space doctrines, policies and activities. These realities raise potential risks of misunderstanding and miscalculation regarding space activities, which could escalate tension and may even lead to conflict.

Against this backdrop, there is a pressing need to develop common understandings at the international level regarding practical ways to ensure and enable stable, secure and sustainable space system from a security perspective. Needless to say, such an undertaking would contribute to preventing an arms race in outer space.

Mr. Coordinator,

I would like to reiterate Japan's unwavering support for the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space. We have constructively participated in substantive discussion on PAROS within the CD since its adoption as an agenda item in 1982 and have also participated in the Group of Governmental Experts of the United Nations on PAROS in 2018 and 2019. Japan is strongly committed to continued proactive engagement in multilateral discussions to enhance space security, as outlined in Japan's revised Basic Plan on Space Policy published in June 2020.

Mr. Coordinator,

Outer space is a domain where even innovative technologies developed with benign intention may, if used inappropriately, pose a serious threat to others due to their dual-use nature. This dual-use nature also poses difficult challenges for identifying space threats through focusing solely on technological capabilities.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight three areas as possible items for further discussions by the international community with a view to enhance space security.

First is the creation of debris by deliberate destruction of space objects. Japan believes that States should refrain from using or testing capabilities in a way that negatively impacts the space environment, especially through the creation of long-lived debris which could hamper the freedom of access to and use of outer space. Japan calls on all Member States to refrain from such actions as a matter of urgency and without waiting for the establishment of any rules. In this regard, Japan expressed concerns towards the DA-ASAT missile test conducted by the Government of Russia on November 15 2021 and calls upon the Government of Russia not to conduct this kind of test in the future.

Second is the rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO). While on-orbit services such as life-extension of satellites and refueling can be beneficial to space actors by contributing to space sustainability, the same technologies can also be used to capture or disrupt satellites in a hostile manner. Hence, we believe that states should articulate possible best practices and standards regarding such operations without hampering innovative solutions, while also addressing security concerns.

Third is harmful interference. Building on the existing instruments, Japan considers it beneficial to discuss concrete behaviours of harmful interference with space activities from a security perspective. The scope of such discussion may include both kinetic and non-kinetic harmful interference which may not necessarily destroy but degrade, disrupt and damage space systems and thus might increase the risk of misunderstanding and miscalculation.

In light of the points I have outlined, Japan considers that it is pragmatic to establish a common understanding on patterns of behaviors to consider how to prevent arms race in outer space, since behaviours can be observed and can serve as measurable criteria for identifying potentially threatening behaviours. While the legality of such behaviours awaits further discussion, Japan believes that this behaviours-based approach will contribute to

enhancing security in outer space by mitigating threats including those occurring from misunderstanding and miscalculation, which could entail increasing tension and conflict.

Mr. Coordinator,

Throughout the discussions on PAROS, Japan has underlined the importance of TCBMs to avoid risks of miscalculation and misunderstanding in Space activities. The previous UNGA Resolutions also underscore the importance of increased transparency and confidence building measures to this end.

In conclusion, Japan believes it will be to the benefit of all Member States to make full use of this Subsidiary Body we have managed to establish this year , and to deepen our discussions on such topics that I have touched upon today.

Thank you, Mr. Coordinator.