DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 81st Session of the General Assembly
-- Thematic Discussion: Outer Space --
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Thank you, Mr. Chair,
Next year, we will mark the 60th anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty. The importance of outer space has been increasing significantly, and its use impacts every fabric of our lives. It is in the common interest of present and future generations to ensure and maintain the security, stability and sustainability of outer space activities.

As outer space has become a major arena for geopolitical competition in diplomacy, defense, economic activities, and intelligence, there is a pressing need for effective measures to mitigate and reduce risks and threats in this domain. Japan once again underscores the importance of the Outer Space Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal framework governing this critical domain and the urgency for States Parties to implement or operationalize the treaty's obligations. In this regard, Japan recalls the importance of General Assembly resolution 79/18, which calls for compliance with existing legal obligations.

Mr. Chair,
Japan believes that advancing norms, rules and principles is an essential starting point for mitigating and reducing space risks and threats posed by destabilizing and irresponsible space activities.

In Geneva, the OEWG on PAROS in all its aspects is guiding us in deepening our understanding of the current state of risks and threats in outer space. Japan emphasizes the importance of inclusive, holistic and comprehensive dialogues with multistakeholder engagement. In this regard, Japan welcomes the joint statement delivered by ASEAN Member States in July this year, at the OEWG.

Japan strongly supports the continuation of discussions on norms, rules and principles that could reduce space risks. In particular, Japan stresses the importance of the moratorium on destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. Japan considers this a practical way forward in achieving the objectives of PAROS by reducing destabilizing space activities that could result in misperception, mistrust and miscommunication among actors; by mitigating risks and threats associated with those risks; and by paving the way for our collective actions.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

(End)