

For Joint ad hoc Committee of 1st and 4th Committees

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Thank you for giving me the floor. First of all, I would like to express my sincere welcome to convene the very first Joint ad hoc Committee of the First and Fourth Committees to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability.

Mr. Co-Chairs and Distinguished Delegates,

This joint committee is quite important because the structure of multilateral fora has not caught up with the reality of outer space activities. The boundaries of civil and national security activities in outer space are becoming more blurred.

In particular, the problem of the increasing space debris cannot be clearly attributed to either civil or national security activities. Moreover, space debris themselves do not make any distinction of civil or national security activities in case they hit satellites or space stations.

We thus need to address such challenges in outer space in a comprehensive manner. In this regard, this joint ad hoc committee is timely and offers great potential.

Mr. Co-Chairs and Distinguished Delegates,

The development of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities (ICOC), led by the EU, is a good example of addressing space issues in a comprehensive manner. As a transparency and confidence-building measure, the Code addresses all activities in outer space including both civil and national security activities and stipulates measures to prevent the further creation of space debris regardless of intended purposes. Moreover, one among others, the Code is establishing an international norm that restrains any action that directly or indirectly

causes damage or destruction to space objects, such as satellites.

Another important additional value is the notification/information sharing mechanism as well as the consultation mechanism.

We have seen steady progress with three rounds of Open-Ended Consultations and most recently Multilateral Negotiations at the United Nations in New York in July.

Mr. Co-Chairs and Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to conclude my statement by emphasizing the necessity of space debris mitigation measures as an urgent issue to be addressed in the very near future. Space debris is an actual threat to any type of entity conducting any kind of activity in space.

Japan will intensify our efforts in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and in developing space debris removal technology. As stated in the latest Japan's Basic Plan on Space Policy which was approved in this January, Japan intends to construct SSA-related facilities and an operational framework required for SSA by the 2020s. As such, Japan is committed to securing a safe space environment.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chairs.