

For 1st Committee

Thank you very much for giving me the floor, Mr. Chairperson,

As this is my first time to take the floor in this First Committee, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to you, Ambassador van Oosterom, on your assumption of Chairperson of the First Committee.

Mr. Chairperson,

While a growing number of nations are enjoying the economic, social, and national security benefits from outer space utilization, there are negative aspects to this trend as well.

A rise in the number of satellites has led to congestion in space, and a greater volume of space debris, which pose a risk of severely impairing the functioning of satellites if collisions occur. This trend is of serious concern to all nations for stable utilization of outer space.

For example, if the function of satellites declines as a result of space debris collisions, this could lead to a severe disruption for disaster prevention or safe operation of transportation, such as railways, ships, and airplanes as well as equipment playing key roles in the national security apparatus. In this context, damaging behavior, such as anti-satellite attacks which generates a large amount of space debris, is a great concern to the international community.

Mr. Chairperson,

Therefore, enhancing international efforts that aim to examine possible measures to effectively prohibit destruction of satellites and to assure peaceful and sustainable uses of outer space is a matter of significance. In this connection, Japan will proactively pursue partnerships with other nations on realizing and reinforcing the rule of law in outer space.

In particular, we have been actively promoting efforts with the international community to formulate the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities (ICOC), which, amongst others, stipulate measures to prevent further creation of space debris and restrain from any action that directly or indirectly damage or destruct space objects.

On the other hand, with regard to the draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT), presented by Russia and China, we recognize that there are a number of issues that need to be carefully examined for consideration.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to conclude my statement by emphasizing the necessity of space debris mitigation measures as an urgent issue in the 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. As such, Japan is committed to securing a safe space environment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.