

"Course of Action"

adopted at the Ministers' Meeting of Inter-Agency Task Force on Space Debris (10/Nov./2020)

The task force resolves on our course of action as follows.

1. Effort to Contribute to the International Rule-Making on Orbital Flight

The task force seeks to formulate a mid/long-term action program to tackle the issue of orbital flight rules as a pillar of space traffic management by the end of FY2021. To this end, a working group is to be constituted to explore the elements of common global standards, best practices, and/or norms of behavior, which Japan should seek to establish, concerning selecting, maneuvering among and vacating orbits so as to develop a strategy to play a leading role in the international rule-making.

2. Japan's Voluntary and Preceding Efforts on Debris Mitigation

The ministries and agencies concerned proactively take the following actions.

- (1) Each member ministry/agency, in order to mitigate orbital debris originating from government-owned satellites, complies with a series of international guidelines prescribing that a spacecraft in the low-Earth orbit should be either de-orbited or maneuvered into an orbit with a 25-year-long or shorter lifetime. The member, in addition, makes its satellite that have terminated its operational phase descend into an orbit with the shortest lifetime possible in a controlled fashion.
- (2) Each member, considering such enablers as technological development, makes every effort possible in advance to more thoroughly mitigate orbital debris originating from government-owned satellites being launched hereafter.
- (3) The members concerned, as a part of the study prescribed in section 1 above, collectively explore and crystalize necessary domestic rules and regulations applied commonly to all types of on-orbit service so as to facilitate practical active debris removal before the JAXA CRD2 (commercial removal of debris demonstration) project phase 1 mission scheduled for FY2022.