

## **Remarks by Director-General Kazeki at the 6th Summit for Space Sustainability**

*Opening remarks*

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Thank you, Peter. Good morning, everyone. My name is Jun Kazeki, Director-General of National Space Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office of Japan.

As Minister Takaichi addressed, an increasing number of space debris is an imminent issue. The Government of Japan has been committed to R&D for mitigation and remediation of space debris. One recent progress is the commercial debris removal demonstration project, called CRD2. In May this year, the CRD2 Phase 1 demonstration satellite ADRAS-J became the first private-sector satellite in the world to successfully approach 50 meters from orbital debris and took images. I suppose Mr. Yamamoto of JAXA and Mr. Okada of Astroscale will talk about the mission during this summit.

Now, the theme of this summit is Space Sustainability. And for Space Sustainability, according to the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines, in addition to the research and development toward sustainable exploration, three aspects are essential: First, policy and regulatory framework for space activities; Second, safety of space operations; And third, international cooperation including capacity building and awareness raising. Let me talk one by one.

First, I would like to share some of our continuing efforts regarding the policy and regulatory framework.

As Minister Takaichi introduced, in March 2024, Japan's Interagency Task Force updated the "Mid- to Long-Term Policy for Rule-Making on the Use of Earth Orbit." The Government of Japan launched the Inter-Agency Task Force on Space Traffic Management in 2019, in view of the increasing risk of collisions among space objects and the rapidly progressing international discussion toward Rule-Making regarding space traffic management. The taskforce, chaired by Minister of State for Space Policy, consists of relevant ministries and an agency. The policy document, which is on the website of the Cabinet Office, identifies the areas and elements to be addressed. And it provides a direction for the rules for the use of orbit, based on the domestic and international situation at the time of publication and revision.

Japan intends to accumulate Japan's practical efforts in space traffic management in line with the "Mid- to Long-Term Policy on Efforts for Rule-Making on the Use of Earth Orbit" and to actively communicate Japan's practical efforts in space traffic management rule-making to the international community through various opportunities such as today's Summit for Space Sustainability.

Japan mitigates generation of debris by regulation. We require spacecraft control licensees to prevent dispersion of the components and parts, implement measures to avoid collision with other spacecrafts when their spacecrafts have maneuverability, and endeavor to remove the spacecrafts from the low earth orbit at the right timing after the end of the mission.

Another example of regulatory aspect is the Space Resources Act of Japan. It was enacted in 2021 to ensure that Japan's space resource activities comply with the Outer Space Treaty and are subject to appropriate authorization and continuing supervision by the government of Japan. In addition, Japan ensures transparency by publicizing the approved project plan on the Cabinet Office website. The aim of this is to conduct space resource activities in an internationally coordinated manner and to contribute to the prevention of conflicts related to the activities. On November 4, 2022, Japan granted the first license for space resource activities to a Japanese space startup "ispace" under the Space Resources Act.

The idea behind this regulation is that both on-orbit services and space resource activities should be conducted in a peaceful, safe, and sustainable manner consistent with the fundamental value of an international order in outer space based on the rule of law. It is important to reach a common understanding among countries on necessary measures to prevent unregulated space resource development by some entities and conflicts among them.

Japan has been participating in discussions among the Artemis Accords Signatories on practical efforts to share information on each country's lunar exploration mission to prevent collisions. We believe that these efforts will be helpful for all countries. Japan believes that in order to promote safety, transparency, sustainability, science and industrial innovation, it is important for all of us to discuss practical international coordination measures to prevent harmful interferences and conflicts. Japan would like to continue to actively contribute to the discussions in UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee and Space Resources WG.

Now, let me turn to the second point, safety issues.

Let me present Japan's guidelines as examples of our efforts. In order to ensure safe, secure and transparent operations of on-orbit servicing, Japan established national guidelines in 2021 that prescribe technical safety requirements. The Guidelines require entities conducting on-

orbit servicing to obtain consent from the entity having the authority to the client object, and to ensure transparency throughout the mission. Transparency is crucial in ensuring that the on-orbit servicing does not cause collisions with the client space object or third-party objects and that a third-party spacecraft does not approach the service area without knowing the plan. In addition, Japan publishes an in-advance announcement on on-orbit servicing project on the website of Cabinet Office to ensure transparency.

The first case of the in-advance announcement was ADRAS-J of Astroscale Holdings. We hope that countries considering licensing on-orbit servicing will establish standards and guidelines similar to Japan's, including those related to transparency, so that we can create a business environment in which these services can operate securely.

Another important element for safety issues is Space Situational Awareness, SSA. SSA remains a priority for Japan. Ministry of Defense of Japan has developed an SSA system, which became fully operational in March 2023. We also began providing SSA information, such as orbital information of space objects, to private satellite operators. This SSA system will help us make space more visible and avoid orbital collisions.

Let me go to the third point and the last point, that is international cooperation.

Obviously, those practices are the most effective when they are internationally coordinated. Thus, in March 2024, Japan hosted the "9th International Symposium on Ensuring the Safe and Sustainable Use of Outer Space" focusing on rulemaking and collaborations for ensuring the stable use of orbit. During the Symposium, panelists and participants discussed challenges and opportunities to realize globally coordinated efforts to this end. And today and tomorrow, we co-host the 6th summit for space sustainability. So, we are so much excited for this.

Today, with these distinguished speakers and participants, I am sure that we will deepen discussion on how to ensure sustainability of space and further promote international cooperation and industry-academia-government collaboration in this field. I recognize the Secure World Foundation has held the summit every year since 2019 and fully appreciate its long-standing contributions. The Government of Japan is honored to have an opportunity to co-host the first summit in Asia.

Let me conclude my remark by wishing every success of the event. Now I would like to handover to Dr. Peter Martinez, Executive Director of the Secure World Foundation. Thank you.

(End)