

Remarks by Minister Kiuchi at the 10th National Space Policy Secretariat Symposium

Opening remarks

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Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone joining us today. My name is Minoru Kiuchi, Minister of State for Space Policy in the Cabinet Office of Japan. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to deliver a keynote address.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the keynote speakers, panelists, and audience members for participating in the 10th National Space Policy Secretariat Symposium on Ensuring the Safe and Sustainable Use of Outer Space.

This symposium is held annually to discuss issues facing the stable use of outer space and measures to ensure it. It draws on a wide range of perspectives, including government, industry, and academia, and aims to foster a common international understanding. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event.

Now, I would like to introduce our recent activities in Japan. Japan has been building practical efforts in technology development and rulemaking in the areas of collision prevention, space situational awareness, debris mitigation and remediation, and on-orbit services for satellites in Earth orbit.

In addition, we are actively communicating Japan's practical efforts in space traffic management rule-making to the international community, taking advantage of various opportunities such as the G7, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, or COPUOS, and the Summit on Space Sustainability.

In recent years, with the risk of destructive Direct Ascent Anti-Satellite Missile Tests, or DA-ASAT, and other such tests in space, the importance of international rule-making, both at the United Nations and in multinational fora, has increased.

Let me introduce a few other recent examples. One is the Commercial Debris Removal Demonstration, or CRD2, on which JAXA and Astroscale are collaborating. A demonstration satellite was launched in February last year as part of the first phase, and from May to November, the satellite successfully approached the target debris in orbit and observed it from an extremely close distance. In phase 2 of the

demonstration they will actually capture and remove debris. In these demonstrations, we will continue to make safe and transparent efforts based on government guidelines.

In addition, the National Space Policy Secretariat is currently working on the formulation of “Guidelines for the Prevention of Collisions with Satellites and Other Objects”, which is scheduled for completion by March of this year.

The pace of change in the space environment is accelerating, and in order to respond to these changes, we will move our initiatives forward one by one without faltering, in cooperation with the international community.

In closing, let me say how pleased I am to have leaders and experts from leading space countries as keynote speakers and panelists today.

I hope that today's symposium will deepen the discussion on how to ensure the stable use of outer space and further promote industry-academia-government collaboration and international cooperation in this field. Thank you all for your time and attention.

(End)