"Deepening the U.S.-Japan Space Security Relationship"
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Opening Remarks by KAZEKI Jun, Director-General of National Space Policy Secretariat (NSPS), Government of Japan

(Introduction)

Thank you, Dr. John Hamre, CEO of the CSIS, and Ms. Kari Bingen, Senior Fellow of CSIS for inviting me today.

Good afternoon, everyone. I am Jun KAZEKI from the National Space Policy Secretariat of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan.

I would like to express my gratitude to CSIS for providing this precious opportunity of deepening discussions on Japan-U.S. space security relationship.

Earlier this week, I attended the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs where I had opportunities of exchanging views with numerous space experts by joining several events and bilateral meetings. It was such a fruitful week to figure out a current state of play regarding space technologies and policies.

Now in Washington D.C., I would like to take this opportunity to talk about three subjects as opening thoughts; namely, first, a brief background history of Japan's space policy; second, updates of Japan-U.S. space cooperation; and third, the safe and sustainable use of outer space.

(A brief background history of Japan's space policy)

First of all, let me talk about a brief background history of Japan's space policy.

The enactment of the Basic Space Act in 2008 marked a turning point which allowed space development and utilization for security purpose. Furthermore, the revision of the JAXA Law in 2012 enabled JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) to contribute to the security field.

In 2013, Japan formulated its first National Security Strategy, which included only a brief reference of space, as one of global commons together with maritime and cyber space.

However, after nine years, the latest National Security Strategy, formulated in December 2022, includes extensive references to space, covering a wide range of contexts such as security, civil, and

industrial applications.

In fact, recently, the Japanese government actively supports space field by the Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy where the chair is the Prime Minister, and the vice chairs are the Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of State for Space Policy. The Basic Plan on Space Policy is regularly formulated every three to four years at the Strategic Headquarters.

The Basic Plan on Space Policy was revised in June 2023 following the 2022 National Security Strategy. The latest 5th Basic Plan on Space Policy outlines the basic direction of space policy for the next ten years. And every year-end, its Implementation Plan is revised to ensure the execution of measures supported by the national budget.

Recently, in March 2024, the Space Technology Strategy was formulated by the Committee on Space Policy, and the Space Strategy Fund was created in JAXA by the Government of Japan pouring 1 trillion yen, (approximately 6 billion dollars) for ten years which supports space private companies, startups, and universities.

Additionally, in June 2023, alongside the 5th Basic Plan on Space Policy, Japan formulated its first Space Security Initiative which includes a future space architecture and the three aspects, namely, security from space, security in space, and the interaction between security and industry.

(Updates of Japan-U.S. space cooperation)

Secondly, let me update Japan-U.S. space cooperation.

In April last year, former Prime Minister Kishida and then-President Biden held a Japan-U.S. summit, resulting in a successful outcome and joint statement.

The statement mentioned the opportunities for Japanese two astronauts to land on the moon in future Artemis missions as part of the exploration of new frontiers in space, including a Japanese contribution of the pressurized rover produced by JAXA and TOYOTA.

It also announced bilateral cooperation on a constellation for detecting and tracking hypersonic glide vehicles (HGVs) and other missiles in low Earth orbit (LEO). And it is also mentioned in the fact sheet that Japan-U.S. cross-government cooperation on the QZSS program, including the hosting the U.S. payloads on QZSS satellites, and the establishment of QZSS ground stations in the U.S.

In light of those developments, the 9th Meeting of the U.S.-Japan Comprehensive Dialogue on Space was held in Washington D.C. in August 2024. I co-chaired the meeting with Ambassador KUMAGAI Naoki of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the U.S. side was co-chaired by Mr. Chirag Parikh, then- Deputy Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary, National Space Council and Mr. Jason Israel, then- Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense at the National Security Council.

The comprehensive dialogue included not only government-to-government discussions (Track 1.0) but also Track 1.5 dialogue involving industries around 40 companies from both countries. We had extensive discussions on a wide range of agenda, including security, civil, and commercial aspects. The comprehensive dialogue is a valuable opportunity for in-depth discussions between Japan and the U.S., and it is essential to continue these discussions in the future.

In the new U.S. administration, on 7th February 2025, Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba and President Trump held a Japan-U.S. summit in Washington D.C.

And the joint statement referred to the intention to continue a strong partnership in civil space and human exploration, including a mission to the International Space Station and lunar surface exploration in future Artemis missions. It shows a continuous robust space cooperation between Japan and the United States.

(Safe and sustainable use of outer space)

Thirdly and finally, I would like talk about safe and sustainable use of outer space.

In Japan, a ministerial Task Force on Space Traffic Management was held at the end of March to review the efforts of relevant ministries and companies. Specifically, we discussed the establishment of guidelines for preventing collisions with satellites, the progress in space situational awareness (SSA) and space domain awareness (SDA) by the Ministry of Defense and the Japan Air Self-Defense Forces, and the progress of the Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration project (CRD2) by JAXA and Astroscale.

As space becomes more congested, rules and norms for orbital use, such as collision prevention, space situational awareness, and debris mitigation and remediation are essential in light of security in space.

In Japan, based on the Space Activities Act enacted in 2016, the 'On-Orbit Service Guidelines' were established in 2021. JAXA-Astroscale CRD2 conducted demonstrations based on these guidelines, ensuring transparency, and showcasing best practices to the world.

Additionally, given the risks of destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite (DA-ASAT) missile tests and the placement of weapons of mass destruction in space, it is crucial to actively contribute to international discussions on rulemaking or norm-making, such as those at the United Nations, COPUOS.

Japan will continue to ensure the safe and sustainable use of outer space by advancing technological development and rulemaking as "two wheels of a cart" and will continue to communicate Japan's practical efforts to the international community.

(Conclusion)

In conclusion, let me say a few words. Space is a frontier and a robust field. There are many challenges and opportunities, and actions by all stake holders are necessary. Action, action, and action!

Now I conclude my opening remarks by wishing Japan-U.S. space cooperation develops further in coming years. Thank you for your attention.