**Committee: ICAO and UNOOSA Joint Session**

**Country: Japan**

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**Topic 1: The Environment and Space Activity**

The proliferation of space technology and use has been rather progressive. However, it can also be perceived as regressive when taking into account the environment. Japan recognizes that outer space is truly the last frontier for all of humankind and because of this, the sustainability of space development and utilization should be of great priority.

When considering the environment and space activity, Japan recognizes that there are no obligations in international framework legally requiring nations to adhere to or regulate space activity and the amount of debris released. However, Japan also recognizes that this does not necessarily mean that nothing can be done to moderate it. Japan has also come to the realization that black carbon emissions, even from rocket launches could have a hand in contributing to climate change. It is also evident to Japan that the increase in space utilization has a direct correlation with the increase of debris currently in orbit around our planet. Not only can this cause damage and safety concerns for other space activities, it can also limit and restrain humankind's future endeavours in outer space. In fact, this has already started, due to the fact that the International Space Station, which Japan is a participant of, has already been found to have had impacts from debris.

Japan’s Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has proposed and used several new and progressive tactics to manage and deal with issues such as space debris. This includes the proposed propellantless Lorentz force debris removal satellite and the Space Tethered Autonomous Robotic Satellite-2 which utilizes a magnetized net to decelerate debris back into the atmosphere. Although these crafts utilize new technology, Japan looks forward to further implementation and research and development in the international community to combat the issue of space debris. Currently, JAXA is also monitoring black carbon with a satellite, to better understand its effects on climate change. In accordance with the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), JAXA has implemented certain guidelines such as limiting the breakup of spacecraft and limiting the possibility of collisions to reduce space debris and most importantly, exchange space debris research for the common benefit of all governmental agencies involved.

In conclusion Japan views the sustainable use of outer space as a priority. In particular, the effect the utilization of space has on climate change and the the management and limitation of space debris are of utmost concern to Japan and must be dealt with to ensure the feasible use of outer space.

**Topic 2: The militarization of space and international law**

Over the past two decades Japan has become deeply concerned with the use of outer space for military and combat purposes. Countries including neighbouring ones have been testing anti-satellite technology and missiles for the destruction and extermination of satellites for numerous reasons. If this continues Japan fears that an international arms race could spark that would threaten the peaceful use of outer space.

This concern arose ever since the supposed testing of neighbouring China’s anti-satellite technology in 2007 and North Korea’s ballistic missile tests in 1998 and 2006. Japan expressed concern over China’s ASAT missile testing multiple times. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe had asked China for an explanation and had expressed that nations “must use space peacefully” in accordance with Japan’s policy on the peaceful use of outer space. In Japan’s Basic Plan on Space Policy, it is made clear that anti-satellite-weapons that are being used by other countries is clearly prohibited in the 1967 Space Treaty.

Japan has also undergone a policy shift, from keeping national defense and space activities independent to allowing their amalgamation for crisis management and the general security of the nation. This is not seen as a contravention of international law as weapons are not in use in outer space. Taking into account the recent aggressors within the East Asian region, Japan, with the support of the United States of America has begun advancing its space surveillance program by looking towards implementing a ballistic missile early warning system for national defense. In addition, to defend the land of the rising sun, The United States of America has also aided Japan in the installation of surface-to-air interceptor missiles around the country and onboard various warships.

To conclude, Japan recognizes that the future advancement of applications of outer space for defense around the world must be meticulously monitored and a solution to this must be created in order to prevent an arms race.

**Topic 3: Space Commercialization**

Space commercialization, not only has an extensive role in Japan’s economy, but society as well. Currently, Japan is concerned with the expansion of the private space sector and the increasing international competition.

Japan recognizes the current proliferation of the commercialization of space technology and acknowledges that private corporations have a key role to play when considering space economy and society. In fact, Japan believes that private corporations also fulfil and aid in Japan’s fundamental pillars for the development and utilization of outer space, which are the peaceful use of space, improvement of people's lives, development of industry, prosperity of society, promotion of international cooperation as well as consideration for the environment. In particular, Japan acknowledges that satellite communication companies in Japan are already improving the everyday lives of people and strengthening the industry. Japan also looks forward to a future business model where private corporations are allowed to supply equipment and services consistently, to ensure the necessary growth of the space industry.

To accelerate the private space industry or sector in Japan, under new guidelines JAXA alongside the government of Japan is now able to provide guidance and help private corporations upon request. Private corporations that are in need of a launch vehicle to send a payload into orbit are also encouraged to use Japanese rockets before looking elsewhere to expand Japan's space economy. Policies like these, are what will help expand Japan’s ever growing space sector.

In conclusion, Japan looks forward to the expansion of the commercialization of outer space. It is recognized that the international space industry must become more competitive to ensure the guaranteed expansion of humankind's endeavours into outer space.

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