



## **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 69<sup>th</sup> Session**

**10 June – 18 June 2026**

### **Item 5 : General exchange of views.**

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan extends its sincere congratulations to you, Chair, upon your election, and looks forward to fruitful deliberations under your able guidance.

Chair,

Japan has been a member of COPUOS since its earliest days and has long recognized the profound significance of outer space for humanity. What was once the frontier of exploration has also become the unseen foundation upon which nations and societies depend. Yet without shared norms and frameworks that keep pace with the growing scale and complexity of space activities, we can no longer afford to take this foundation for granted.

Today, as private enterprises enter the space domain with remarkable vigor, the use of outer space has entered a new and transformative age. In such an age, Japan believes that the principles of freedom, openness, diversity, inclusivity, and the rule of law—universal values that also underpin Japan's foreign policy vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific—bear equal weight in outer space.

Prime Minister Takaichi has expressed strong commitment to harnessing space technologies to strengthen national resilience, including in disaster preparedness and food security, and has actively forged cooperation in space with leaders around the world. As these efforts gather force, COPUOS must remain the premier forum through which they are guided toward the common good.

Chair,

The increase in space debris is the greatest threat to the sustainable use of outer space. Japan contributes to the peaceful uses of outer space through two complementary pillars: the development of effective and practical international norms, and the promotion of capacity-building.

Clear international norms define responsible conduct and lay the foundation for markets in which new space technologies may thrive. The industry requires predictability, a level playing field, and norms grounded in operational realities as fundamental conditions for sustainable commercial activity and long-term investment. Japan has laid down domestic guidelines for on-orbit servicing, including active debris removal, ahead of a technical demonstration under the CRD2 (Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration) projects. Building on these experiences, Japan stands ready to contribute to relevant discussions in and out of COPUOS to ensure space activities remain safe and transparent.

Japan also draws upon its technological strengths to support capacity-building. Through initiatives such as the KiboCUBE programme and Sentinel Asia, Japan's satellite-data-based disaster risk reduction project, Japan works to ensure that the benefits of space are widely shared.

The decisions taken in this chamber will resonate far beyond it. Japan will actively contribute to strengthening and reshaping COPUOS itself, so that it may endure—effective, responsive, and indispensable—as the principal forum for international dialogue on the peaceful uses of outer space.

Outer space is our common inheritance—and our common charge. What we fail to safeguard there, no nation may reclaim alone.

Thank you.