

Japan



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and Technical Subcommittee 63rd Session

February 2 – 13, 2026

Japan Item 4 : General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan is honored to take the floor at the sixty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and warmly congratulates you, Chair, on your election. Japan trusts that this session, under your guidance, will mark meaningful progress for our shared endeavors.

Chair,

Humanity now stands at a decisive moment. Outer space has become an integral part of modern life—quiet in presence, yet profound in impact. It is becoming increasingly burdened by critical challenges. We can no longer assume the safety and the sustainability of outer space. Without timely and resolute action by this Committee, the very foundations of space activities risk erosion.

Technological innovation is advancing at a pace unseen in previous eras, driven increasingly by private actors. This reality is welcomed but demands responsibility and swift action by COPUOS to keep pace. The international community must ensure that innovation serves all humankind, and does not lead to disorder or exclusion.

Japan's own policies such as its space technology strategy and funding mechanisms are offered not as self-praise, but as one example of how governments may align innovation with public purpose. COPUOS must remain the forum where such alignment is shaped collectively.

Chair,

The rule of law is the backbone of a stable and predictable space environment. Outer space, by its nature, is shared. Its use must therefore be governed by clear principles, transparency, and accountability. Japan's efforts to develop national guidelines for new space activities, together with its cooperation with UNOOSA through the "Global Space Law Project" in supporting legal frameworks worldwide, reflect a broader conviction: responsible conduct must be cultivated globally, or it will not endure at all.

Moreover, Japan has been at the forefront of regional and international space cooperation. Japan offers capacity-building opportunities through the COPUOS platform to ensure emerging and developing countries can equitably benefit from outer space. For regional space cooperation, Japan has hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP) annually with partners in the Asia-Pacific region to provide networking and collaboration opportunities for regional space stakeholders.

Space debris confronts the international community with an immediate and escalating threat. It is no longer a distant concern. It is a present test of our collective responsibility. Addressing it demands not only technological capability, but also trust, coordination, and foresight across borders. Japan has advanced the development of active debris removal technologies and other on-orbit servicing technologies that contribute to mitigating and remediating space debris. However, Japan recognizes that technology alone cannot succeed without a predictable legal and operational environment. Japan has established domestic guidelines for debris mitigation and remediation as a first step towards creating such an environment. These guidelines ensure that on-orbit servicing, including active debris removal is conducted safely, transparently, and responsibly. They are designed to enable the transition of active debris removal from experimental efforts to sustainable services. As on-orbit servicing evolves into international and commercially viable operations, complex issues arise. These include coordination, consent, and liability. Japan is closely examining these challenges and will continue to feed its findings back to COPUOS. The aim is to support global discussions that allow innovative solutions—including those led by private actors—to be deployed responsibly for the benefit of all. Japan will further share its insights and experience by hosting a dedicated side

event during today's lunchtime, and warmly invites all delegations to attend.

Chair,

The future of outer space will not be shaped by any one nation, nor by inaction disguised as caution. It will be shaped by whether COPUOS chooses cooperation over convenience, and stewardship over short-term gain. Japan stands ready to work with all delegations to ensure that outer space remains safe, sustainable, and open—for this generation, and those yet to come.

Thank you.