

Japan



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee 65th Session

April 15 – 22, 2026

Japan Item 4: General exchange of views.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan is honored to take the floor and extends its sincere congratulations to you upon your election. We look forward to thoughtful and productive deliberations under your guidance.

At a time when space activities are advancing with remarkable speed, the need to secure predictability and to nurture steady cooperation and trust among all stakeholders grows ever more pressing. In such an environment, clear and commonly shared international norms stand as a steady compass—reducing uncertainty and guiding responsible conduct. Their development is not merely desirable; it is essential.

The community of space actors, including private enterprises, is expanding at an unprecedented pace. Across both public and private spheres, technological progress moves swiftly. With this progress comes a widening diversity in actors, interests, and modes of operation, rendering space activities ever more intricate. Such dynamism calls for approaches to governance that are at once resilient and adaptable.

Yet, as diversity deepens, so too does the risk of misunderstanding and friction. It is therefore of growing importance to establish international norms that uphold order and safety in outer space. Through such norms, greater predictability and stability may be secured for all who venture there.

It is also noteworthy that demand for international norms is rising from the private sector itself. Such norms must remain grounded in the realities of actual operations. Close engagement with industry—those who develop, operate, and utilize these technologies, is indispensable if these norms are to be practical and effective.

Nor must international norms be confined to legally binding forms alone. Flexible instruments—such as the steady accumulation of best practices and the development of adaptable guidelines—may offer means better suited to keeping pace with rapid technological change.

Chair,

In this regard, COPUOS remains the central forum for the development of international norms governing space activities, and it continues to play a vital role in fostering international cooperation. Japan underscores that both COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee must further strengthen their efforts, so as to keep stride with the swift evolution of space development and utilization. It behooves us all to advance robust frameworks that ensure the sustainable, peaceful, and safe use of outer space for the benefit of all.

May our shared resolve today become the quiet order that guides tomorrow's skies.

Thank you for your attention.