

Joint Statement  
The Third Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space

September 11, 2015

Pursuant to the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April this year, which reconfirmed strengthened bilateral space cooperation from a broad, inclusive, and strategic perspective, and the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee which in the same month, approved new “Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation” that includes cooperation on Space and highlighted enhanced collaboration on space security in its Joint Statement, the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America held their Third Comprehensive Dialogue on Space in Tokyo, Japan on September 11, 2015. This follows the First Comprehensive Dialogue held on March 11, 2013 in Tokyo and the Second Comprehensive Dialogue held on May 9, 2014 in Washington, D.C., and represents the strong commitment of two of the world’s most advanced spacefaring nations to closely cooperate with the international community to ensure the continuous and stable use of outer space for current and future generations.

This meeting was opened by Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama and Caroline Kennedy, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and co-chaired by representatives from the Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of National Space Policy - Cabinet Office from the Japanese side, and by the representatives from the Executive Office of the President’s National Security Council and Office of Science and Technology Policy for the United States. Principal participants included the National Security Secretariat, Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Defense and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) from the Japanese side and the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, Interior and Transportation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) from the U.S. side. With the participation of experts from across the two governments, the Dialogue fosters a whole-of-government approach to civil, commercial, and national security space interests and cooperation.

At the Third Dialogue, both sides exchanged information on respective space policies. Japan explained the new Basic Plan for Space Policy which was approved by Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy in January and the Midterm Report of the Committee on National Space Policy which was reported to the Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy in July of this year. Japan also explained their remote sensing data policy currently under

consideration. The U.S. explained recent activities related to implementing the 2010 National Space Policy and 2013 National Space Transportation Policy.

Given the common security challenges our two countries face, both sides discussed space security cooperation and confirmed enhanced cooperation to maintain strong space industries and scientific and technological developments that contribute to the resiliency of critical space systems. Regarding Space Situational Awareness (SSA), both sides intend to cooperate closely to prepare for their second SSA table top exercise scheduled for October this year, welcomed the steady progress of “two-way” SSA information sharing, and confirmed that they will further additional cooperation in SSA. Both sides also confirmed that they will further explore opportunities for collaboration on the use of space for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). Appropriate export controls for space technology and space systems under the respective jurisdiction of both nations were also discussed.

Both sides discussed furthering cooperation on space applications, to include Earth observation, space science, weather forecasting, and positioning, navigation, and timing services provided by the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS). In addition, both sides acknowledged the strategic and diplomatic significance of International Space Station (ISS) cooperation and the importance of continued cooperative utilization of the ISS for scientific and socio-economic benefits on Earth, and as a stepping stone for future space exploration activities. Both sides confirmed progress in planning for the Second International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF) which will be hosted by Japan in 2016 or 2017.

Both sides agreed on the importance of exploring the next steps with regard to the issues related to the negotiation of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. Both sides reiterated the importance of continued cooperation in the pursuit of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) for space activities, and implementation of the recommendations from the 2013 report of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on TCBMs in Outer Space Activities.

Japan and the United States confirmed the strategic importance of the Comprehensive Dialogue on Space, which will continue to guide overall bilateral space cooperation and strengthen cooperative relations between the two countries across ministries, departments, and agencies.

Both sides concurred on holding the Fourth meeting of the Dialogue in Washington, D.C. in 2016.

[end]