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Statement by Mr. Kazuhiro NAKAI,  
Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva  
At the Meeting of the First Committee  
73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

-Thematic Debate: Outer Space -  
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Mr. Chairperson,

More and more states are enjoying the economic, social, and national security benefits of outer space activities today. While the opportunities and accessibility of use of outer space activities are growing, we face serious challenges, such as a greater volume of space debris. It has become all the more critical for the international community to ensure the safety, security, and sustainability of outer space for the welfare and development of all humanity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The importance of enhancing the rule of law in outer space needs to be reaffirmed. Japan reiterates the need to implement principles of responsible behavior for outer space activities, which could be an important step for international rule-making. We encourage all Member States to refrain from any action which brings about, directly or indirectly, damage or destruction of space objects.

Japan supports the idea of preventing an arms race in outer space in principle. We have participated in substantive discussions on the

Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) in the Conference on Disarmament as well as the Group of Governmental Experts held this year based on this basic position. It is our view that discussions on PAROS needs to reflect the complexity as well as the immense potential of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairperson,

In order to explore how the international community can preserve and enhance the long-term safety, security, and sustainability of outer space, TCBMs (Transparency and Confidence Building Measures) can play an important role to build confidence and mutual trust among space actors. We reaffirm our commitment, and call on all Member States to review and implement, to the extent practicable, the proposed TCBMs contained in the recommendations of the UN Group of Governmental Experts Report.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan believes that eight years of substantive work of the Committee of Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) discussing the guidelines on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS) have deepened our awareness and understanding on how we could use outer space in more sustainable manner. Japan encourages all Member States to follow the 21 guidelines on which consensus were reached.

Mr. Chairperson,

Space debris is a real threat to any type of entity conducting any type of activity in space. Therefore, damaging behavior, like anti-satellite attacks which generate a large amount of space debris, is of great concern to the international community. In particular,

Japan is seriously concerned about the actual, not abstract, development and deployment of anti-satellite weapons capabilities, including terrestrially based ones. To deal with the problems of long-lived space debris, we will intensify our efforts in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and in developing space debris removal technology.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, I would like to re-emphasize our commitment to continue working closely with the international community to ensure safety, security, and sustainability of outer space activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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