



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 79th Session of the General Assembly
- THEMATIC DEBATE: OUTER SPACE -
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Thank you, Madam Chair.

Today, every aspect of our daily lives and the functioning of our society are intimately connected to outer space, from basic infrastructure to sustainable development to national security. This critical domain has also become a major arena for geopolitical competition in diplomacy, defense, economic activities, and intelligence. There is a new urgency for effective measures to ensure security, stability, and sustainability of activities in outer space.

Japan reiterates its strong commitment in this regard and supports the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space as its unwavering basic position. Advancing rulemaking on space security is an urgent challenge for all. Japan will actively contribute to discussions aimed at promoting the development of international norms and rules for the use of outer space, including from the perspective of national security.

Madam Chair,

Japan underscores the importance of the Outer Space Treaty, as the cornerstone of the international legal framework for this domain. Even a single detonation of a nuclear weapon in outer space would impact space systems, affect the provision of civilian services on Earth and cause negative consequences in long term. In light of the increased importance and our reliance on outer space, Argentina, Japan and the United States submitted a draft resolution “Weapons of Mass Destruction in Outer Space” to affirm the obligations of all States Parties to fully comply with this treaty, in particular Article IV. Japan believes that outer space must remain a domain free of any kinds of weapons of mass destruction and hopes that this draft resolution will garner the widest possible support from Member States.

Madam Chair,

Japan highly appreciates the inclusive and comprehensive discussions held at the Open-ended

Working Group on reducing space threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviours in 2022 to 2023. We consider that this approach is a practical way forward in advancing the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in a concrete and comprehensive manner. Japan strongly supports the continuation of discussions on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours and supports the draft resolution submitted by the UK.

Japan also notes the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS GGE) adopted in August.

Japan also looks forward to continued engagements on the draft decision that aims to merge the two new OEWGs based on UNGA resolutions 78/20 and 78/238 respectively, which, if agreed upon by all relevant Member States and adopted by consensus, could streamline the work foreseen in the years ahead.

Madam Chair,

With a view to making progress in our consideration of the issues related to outer space, Japan also underlines the importance of synergies among multilateral disarmament fora, such as the Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and other bodies of the United Nations.

Thank you.