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Statement by the Delegation of Japan  
At the Meeting of the Fourth Committee  
69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
On agenda item 49:  
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

16 October 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the Fourth Committee. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election to their posts.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Mr. Azzedine Oussedik, Director-General of the Algerian Space Agency and Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space and Mr. David O'Connor, Chief, Policy and Analysis Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs for their insightful presentations yesterday.

Mr. Chairman,

Space-based technologies have become indispensable in our society. They provide numerous invaluable services such as telecommunication, earth observation and navigation. Japan is of the view that efficient international cooperation is the key to the development and maintenance of peaceful activities in space.

In this regard, Japan recognizes COPUOS as a unique multilateral platform to enhance global governance for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. By exchanging views and information using this platform, Member States can ensure transparency and build mutual confidence. COPUOS also allows Member of States to seek common ground

on a diverse range of issues, including the preservation of the space environment.

Japan welcomes and encourages the on-going and intensive discussions at COPUOS on securing long-term sustainability of outer space activities and other related activities. These discussions will be indispensable for further consolidating the foundation of global governance of space activities, and would also constitute an important element for the contribution of space activities toward sustainable development.

Japan also believes that COPUOS can make effective contributions in tackling global issues facing the international community. The Committee's involvement in the Rio+20 Initiatives is a good example of how it can contribute to the issue of sustainable development. The discussion regarding the post 2015 Development Goals has been taken up by the international community. We would like to reiterate the importance and necessity of following up on the contributions of the Committee on such issues.

Mr. Chairman,

At the regional level, Indonesia, the United States and Japan co-hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on space security on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October in Tokyo under the auspices of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), in order to strengthen long-term sustainability, stability, safety and security in space. Approximately 80 participants, including experts, from ARF members attended the Workshop. Participants discussed the importance of maintaining a sustainable space environment as well as approaches to ensure the benefits of space for all nations and future generations.

In addition, Japan promotes the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, or "APRSAF". I am delighted to announce that the APRSAF celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and has been playing a key-role in returning the benefits of space technologies from the peaceful uses of outer space to the Asia-Pacific Region. The 21<sup>st</sup> session of APRSAF will be held in Tokyo between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to briefly introduce Japan's recent space activities. The Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) core observatory, carrying the dual-frequency precipitation radar (DPR), was successfully launched in February of this year. In addition, the Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2 or "ALOS-2" was successfully delivered into orbit in May using the H-IIA Launch Vehicle. Furthermore, the Geostationary Meteorological Satellite "Himawari-8" was also successfully launched this month. We are pleased to note that Japan now enjoys a 96 % success rate for H-IIA rocket launches.

In the field of human space exploration, the Japanese astronaut, Mr. Koichi Wakata completed his 188-day stay in the International Space Station (ISS) in May of this year. Having assumed the post of Commander in March, he led the on-board operations as well as the use of the Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" of the ISS program. We are very proud of his success in completing the long-duration mission, integrating the five other crew members' skills under the Japanese spirit of harmony and cooperation. In addition, the astronaut Mr. Kimiya Yui was assigned as an ISS crewmember for the 44th/45th Expedition Mission scheduled for 2015. In November 2013, the astronaut Mr. Takuya Onishi was selected for the 48th/49th Expedition Mission in 2016. We are also planning to launch the Asteroid Explorer "Hayabusa 2" this December.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, Japan reiterates its faithful commitment to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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