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POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF JAPAN TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OUTER SPACE
ACTIVITIES

Abstract

In this paper I will discuss Japan's potential contributions to the confidence building measures proposed by the European Union (EU).

In January 2007, Anti-Satellite (ASAT) test run by China highlighted the issue of space security. In order to ensure the safety of space activities currently under going and the space activities for the next generation the existing law has to be complemented.

The EU Council adopted a Draft Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities (EU CoC) in December 2008. The main objective of the EU CoC is to strengthen the safety, security and predictability of all space activities, inter alia by limiting or minimizing harmful interference in space activities. It defined international peace and security as its fundamental values, which were by themselves unarguable. However, the actual prospect of the EU CoC is yet in question and the EU will most likely need to find allies to implement it.

With Japan being one of the major space-faring nations and also considered as one of the "key partners" according to the proposed document in EU, I would like to consider the possibility of its contribution to the EU CoC.

Sharing many of the EU's goals and values in regard to outer space policies, the question to consider is how the Far East and Western nations could cooperate to assure and improve the peaceful use of outer space.

This will be done by focusing on three forums in Japanese government in regards to the newly adopted Japanese Basic Law.

The first refers to the discussion on Basic Space Plan by the Strategic Headquarters. The second point derives from the discussion on Defensive Plan by the Council on Security and Defense Capabilities and the last point will relate to the discussion from the Basic Outline of the Space Exploitation by the Committee for the Space Exploitation Promotion in the Ministry of Defense.

Furthermore, documents in multilateral discussion such as the Committee on Disarmament (CD) and United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) will be significant to analyse as well.