

## Policy Recommendation on Space, as a Global Commons

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### 1. Background

- \* Environments concerning Space, as a global commons, have been changing dramatically

For instance:

- Technological development has reduced costs in using space
- Space-faring countries have increased and even non-state players will soon use space
- Some countries have destroyed satellites, reportedly as tests, and so serious concerns are arising about free and safe access to space
- Space debris has been increasing for intentional or unintentional reasons, and endangering safe use of space

- \* In order to ensure free and safe access to space, as a global commons, the US and Japan can enhance cooperation as below

### 2. Recommendation

#### a. Consensus building

- Sharing the benefits of using space with like-minded countries, particularly emerging countries: earth observation, global positioning, meteorological observation, GHG observation, telecommunication, experimental outcome by the International Space Station and exploration into the solar system, etc.
- Sharing interests in protecting space, and sharing knowledge and technology to protect space with those countries above
- Sharing a sense of urgency for international agreements to protect free and safe access to space with those countries above

#### b. Taking appropriate measures against disturbances

- Sharing information on SSA by Japan and EU and other like-minded countries, providing complementary information
- Enhancing cooperation to develop technology to harden satellites against harmful interference and also to reduce and remove debris

#### c. Rule making

- Cooperating to reach international agreements, such as a code of conduct, to ensure free and safe access to space as well as to prevent increase and hopefully reduce space debris
- Cooperating to establish a global regime to ensure open and safe access to space

#### d. Using space for protecting other global commons, particularly the sea and air

- Earth observation and information gathering satellites can provide useful information to protect free and safe access at least to the sea and air, e.g., against piracy and harmful interference.