**Delegation from Japan**

***Position Paper for the General Assembly***

The topics before the General Assembly (GA) are: The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament, Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System and the Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. Japan believes that it is in greatest interest of all Member States to cooperate and participate in debates and discussions, since the issues on the agenda are of great importance for our worldwide community. We are deeply committed to support the international community in combating these issues and express our determination to fulfil our duties under the U.N. Charter.

## I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

Emerging technologies describe the development of new or improved materials used for a variety of purposes, primarily for military uses. Being a progressive Member State of the United Nations, active in several Peacekeeping missions and highly devoted to the protection of peace and human rights, this topic affects Japan in many ways. The security environment around Japan has become increasingly severe as represented by nuclear and missile development, including emerging technologies that are developing rapidly within the 21st century. Also, we, as well as many other Member States, are facing transnational threats grounded on technological progress including international terrorism and cyberattacks.

One of our main goals is the contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security through the United Nations, as stated within our permanent mission. As declared in GA resolution 47/43 (1992) we notice with concern the potential in technological advances for application to military purposes, which could lead to more sophisticated weapons and new weapon systems, especially regarding nuclear weapons and technology. Japan has consistently been playing a leading role in the efforts to achieve a peaceful and safe world, free of nuclear weapons and has always encouraged the pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating these weapons completely. Within these efforts the delegation of Japan has been a main sponsor to the GA resolution 53/77 (1998), concerning general and complete disarmament. Further on, Japan's former Foreign Minister, Hirofumi Nakasone, presented 11 key benchmarks for global nuclear disarmament towards a world free of nuclear weapons on 27 April 2009. They cover three basic areas: steps by all States that hold nuclear weapons; steps by the entire international community; and steps to support States promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in order to create a safe and peaceful international community.

Therefore, the State of Japan is in the opinion that international cooperation needs to be strengthened to secure vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials around the world, which otherwise might fall into the hands of terrorists. As part of the GA we urge to further on recognize nuclear weapons as the biggest threat to mankind and to encourage all Member States holding nuclear weapons to take concrete measures to significantly reduce their nuclear arsenals. In order to realize a world free of nuclear weapons, it is necessary that the entire international community adopts and complies with universal norms for disarmament and non-proliferation, including the banning of testing nuclear weapons. We therefore propose the complete implementation of the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty*. Accordingly, we emphasise Member States that have not yet signed the treaty to reconsider this decision, and strongly propose strict consequences in case of violations.

## II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

One of the main goals of the permanent mission of Japan is increasing the number of Japanese nationals as staff of the United Nations Secretariat and other UN organizations. One reason why we are trying to achieve this goal, is trying to constantly and further on improve the UN system and trying to include our values in it. The delegation of Japan highly values accountability and transparency, since they can have a big impact on working processes and decision-making, which effect millions of people globally.

As data of the World Bank shows, corruption ratings have been sinking throughout the last years. Nevertheless, Japan sees great necessity in bringing these rates to an absolute minimum and has been

putting a lot of effort into achieving that. For instance, Japan has signed *Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific*, which actively fights and prevents corruption in public administrations, the political sphere, as well as the business sector. Further on the Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the government of Japan is an important aspect of Japan's foreign policy, which offers anti-corruption guidance and measures against fraud and corruption. As a result, Japan has been ranked in the top ten percent of the Corruption Perceptions Index 2018 and is striving to further on fight corruption on a regional and global level. Further on, Japan is a signatory to the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the *United Nations Convention against Corruption*.

Japan's goal is to improve the UN System by, establishing certain measures against persons or entities who are determined to engage in corrupt or fraudulent practices and also enforce consequences of corrupt actions. Therefore, Japan sees the necessity of expanding the Oath of Office for UN staff to work as open and transparent as possible, as Peter Thompson did when starting the presidency of the General Assembly. Additionally, we encourage all UN bodies to adapt internal accountability mechanisms, as the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime did. That is why we strive for the creation of similar measures for the GA, in order to ensure trustworthy work processes free of corruption.

## III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development. Girls and women have made major strides since 1990, but they have not yet gained gender equity. The disadvantages facing women and girls are a major source of inequality. All too often, women and girls are discriminated against in health, education, political representation, labour market, and many other aspects of life, with negative consequences for development of their capabilities and their freedom of choice. The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women, should be tackled by the whole of international society; and Japan for its part places great emphasis on this issue. As stated by our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fumio Kishida, Japan will continue to address the issue, and "actively participate in international initiatives on human rights issues, including the protection of women's rights."

We see the empowerment of women through education, improving infrastructure, women's social inclusion, and other social and economic aspects on a regional and global level as important steps to achieve the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Which is why the partnership between the Government of Japan and UN Women has grown steadily, closely linked to the national gender and development priorities identified by Japan, and the country's leading role regionally and internationally. The Government of Japan recognizes the role of women in contributing significantly to the national economy. This has led to greater investment in women's labour force participation, women's leadership and retention, in public as well as in private sectors. The application of gender perspectives and policies is impacting the Japanese society and economy, and empowering women within Japan and beyond. An example of this endeavour is the collaborative effort by both the government and numerous stakeholders, enhancing the understanding of Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), which are resulting of a collaboration between UN Women and the UN Global Compact, in order to firmly support the independent efforts of enterprises toward women's economic empowerment. Japan is making a wide range of efforts in order to tackle the many different forms that violence takes, and is also working to build a foundation to increase the social recognition of violence against women and girls and formulated applicable laws and regulations toward its elimination such as the "Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims" and the "Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality." Another of our measures is the "Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women," which is conducted every year between November 12th and November 25th, including the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Education has become a key factor in preventing violence against women as enhanced education can call attention to the signs, forms, and instances of violence and serve as a tool for empowering women. Therefore, we propose the implementation of the toolkit "Connect with Respect: Preventing gender-based violence in schools", or similar efforts, as it has already been done in Viet Nam. Further on, we propose creating spousal violence counselling and support centres, based on the ""Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims" by the Japanese government. These centres include providing victims with counselling regarding various problems, as well as providing medical or psychological guidance and secure safety in an emergency. Additionally, to offer information, advice, and liaison and coordination with concerned organizations, as well as other forms of assistance, concerning measures including employment promotion, housing procurement, and the use of systems for social assistance in order to promote the self-reliance of victims.