

Delegation from Japan Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) are: Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right, Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents and The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. As a committed advocate of human rights and sustainable development, Japan recognizes the need for comprehensive international cooperation and is willing to actively contribute to solutions for these current challenges on a global level.

I. Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right

As access to safe drinking water is not only an essential human need, but a human right as recognized by the UN, it is essential for life and the enjoyment of other human rights. According to a report of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely managed drinking water services and almost twice as many have no access to safely managed sanitation services which can lead to a lack of hygiene, water contamination and the spread of diseases. A lack of access to safe water is furthermore being an obstacle to the economy, by depriving children of education and women of opportunities to enter into the workforce. Japan is therefore dedicated to aiding Member States by providing comprehensive support that offers both knowledge and expertise to improve equitable access to safe drinking water.

Japan is deeply committed to ensuring universal and safe access to drinking water and sanitation and therefore supports the efforts made by the UN within the past years. Since access to drinking water is necessary to guarantee a certain standard of living and thus dignity and security for all people, Japan welcomes resolution 64/292 adopted by the UN General Assembly (GA) that declared water a human right. Along with this, Japan supports the HRC resolution 15/9 which underlines the importance of water as a human right and at the same time points out the need for international frameworks and standards to promote this right. Japan endorses the continued work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. In addition, Japan fully supports the approach of implementing equitable access to safe drinking water at a universal level by including it in the sixth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). In order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, Japan has provided more than 40 million people in different countries access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the past decade through water and sanitation programs implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). As a country that has achieved universal access to water supply and sanitation, Japan hosted a Japan Water Forum (JWF) that provided a platform for exchange and cooperation among water stakeholders in Japan and abroad, such as UN agencies, international organizations, development banks, governments, private companies, and NGOs. Japan also took part in the 8th World Water Forum in Brazil, which served as a platform for a global exchange on the matter.

In regard to the fact, that developing countries suffer the most from a lacking access to safe drinking water or basic sanitation, Japan will support self-help efforts of developing countries by establishing broad partnerships with international organizations, and other donor countries. Japan stresses the need for other Member States to coordinate strategies to improve the situation in developing countries by reimplementing the Water and Sanitation for Broad Partnership Initiative (WASABI) in order to establish a strong international network with international organizations and providing knowledge and information to other countries through organizations such as World Health Organization and International Water Association. This international network should include technical support and financial contributions to enable more communities to achieve a higher standard of living through access to safe drinking water and to better realize the human rights of world citizens.

II. Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents

In recent years, various conflicts around the world, environmental degradation and a poor humanitarian situation have led to mass migration, which is particularly threatening for children and young people. As estimated by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the number of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents under the age of 19 is expected to rise to 37.9 million by 2019. While the reasons why children leave their homes unaccompanied vary, the consequences in most cases are human rights violations, such as a lack of health care and access to education as well as emotional and psychological consequences.

Recognizing the international commitment to uphold the rights of the child including the right to health, housing, education, water and access to sanitation, Japan welcomes the HRC resolution 29/12 reminding Member States of their commitments to preserve the human rights of the child. As a milestone for

combating growing global displacement, Japan highly appreciates the GA adopted resolution 71/1 on the *New York Declaration for Refugee and migrants*, since the problem of human trafficking and unsafe migration can only be tackled through a common approach by the international society. Furthermore, Japan embraces the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as well as the implementation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which serve to monitor the progress of Member States in fulfilling their obligations to promote and protect the rights of the child. In order to protect the most vulnerable group of migrants, Japan endorses the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants Commission on Human Rights created the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in 1999 by Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1999/44. Recognizing the importance of a robust social system in which children can enjoy their human rights, Japan is supporting the development of such systems with projects such as "Support child friendly environment through community participation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Furthermore, Japan promotes cooperation with international organizations and relevant municipalities, as evidenced by the introduction of the "Japan's Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons".

Although some reasons for unaccompanied migration of children are known, such as a politically unstable situation and conflicts in the home country, discrimination, extreme violence or persecution, there is a general lack of data needed to really understand the complexity of the situation. Japan therefore encourages Member States to address this general lack of reliable data by establishing an internationally networked information exchange system called „Data System for Child Migration (DSCM) that could work hand in hand with governments, civil society organizations and the Migration Data Portal. Only if the countries involved can identify the problems will they be able to work out lasting solutions.

III. The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Over the last few years, the situation in the Middle East has further destabilized. This has been accompanied by a significant deterioration in the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and human rights violations in many aspects, such as the right to adequate living, the rights of Palestinian children, and the right to peaceful assembly, association, and expression. With almost one million Palestinian internally displaced people living in the oPt, there is an urgent need for food assistance, access to shelters, employment, and healthcare services, that can not be provided by local people or the Palestinian government alone. The complexity of the conflict and the resulting human rights violations, as well as the fact that over 800,000 children are affected by the conflict, demonstrates the need for international involvement.

In support of GA resolution 72/248 and HRC resolution S-28/1 as well as Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), Japan is expressing its utmost concern about the continuous and systematic violation of the basic human rights in the oPts that hinder the Palestinian people from a healthy living environment with access to proper healthcare, education and work. Endorsing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as it consists of a guarantee to human rights on the basis that all human beings are equal in rights and dignity as well as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Japan is committed to support for the Palestinians' right of self-determination. In addition to extending economic assistance to the Palestinians and donations to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Japan is promoting confidence-building between the Israeli and the Palestinian sides. Furthermore, Japan promotes, in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, Israel and Jordan, the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative that is aimed at establishing a mid-and long-term business model for regional cooperation through attracting investment and job creation to support economic and social development in Palestine. In order to gain more insight into Palestinian assessments of the internal situation and to examine human rights violations in Palestine, Japan supports the appointment of a Special Rapporteur and the work of Human Rights Watch.

Japan is deeply convinced of the most urgent need to intensify our efforts to protect human rights in the oPts. Therefore, Japan would like emphasize the importance of enhancing international partnership to facilitate confidence building among concerned parties by urging all Member States to call upon the Government of Israel to fully freeze settlement activities as they are in violation of international law. In order to support the achievement of peace in the Middle East on the basis of a "two-state solution", Japan sees the need for support to Palestine in creating a favorable environment for achieving peace and to stop human rights violations in the oPts. Japan also encourages other Member States to provide humanitarian and economic assistance especially in the fields of healthcare and women's empowerment. In order to coordinate the support, Japan offers to host the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD).