

**Remarks by Ambassador Misako KAJI,
Deputy Representative of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other
International Organizations in Geneva
At the 105th IOM Council Meeting**

26 November 2014

Mr. Chairman,

1. Introduction

First, I would like to join others in welcoming the Independent State of Samoa as a new Member State, as well as the new observers. I also congratulate the new Bureau Members on their election.

Japan greatly appreciates the leadership of the Director General, Ambassador Swing, and the Deputy Director General, Ambassador Thompson, in carrying out the organizational reforms of the IOM and guiding swift responses to various humanitarian crises. Japan also pays tribute to the IOM staff who are working tirelessly to fulfill their missions around the world under extremely challenging conditions.

2. Comments on the DG's Report

<Response to Humanitarian Crises>

As noted in the Director General's report, international and internal migration has grown on an unprecedented scale, and providing assistance for these individuals is essential. Recognizing the difficulties and challenges affecting the IOM, Japan has contributed a total of 34.3 million US Dollars in humanitarian assistance to the organization this year.

<Disaster and Migration>

In addition, as mentioned by the Director General, natural disaster is one of the major causes of forced migration. In this connection, Japan appreciates the Director General's interest in contributing to discussions on how best to address disaster and migration. My delegation believes that the Director General's participation in the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 will give important insights to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

<Budget and Organizational Reforms>

On the matter of management of the IOM Administration, Japan welcomes the report on the progress since the adoption of the Council's resolution last year on budgetary reform and looks forward to the full report

for next year. Japan hopes that the reform further strengthens the administration while maintaining a lean structure for the headquarters, as demonstrated in the past, and at the same time aiming at a better balanced gender and geographical representation in the administration.

3. Japan's Priority Areas

<Human Security>

Human security is an essential pillar of Japanese foreign policy and the IOM has proven to be an important partner in promoting human security. The IOM has implemented more than 9 projects worldwide through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

The IOM's strength is in its integrated approach in coping with a wide variety of human mobility issues, by employing expertise gained from humanitarian and development action. The promotion of human security advances comprehensive preventative measures through the capacity-building of every individual. We hope that the IOM continue to take such an approach.

<Protection of Women>

Keeping such individual capacity-building and empowerment in mind, I would like to touch upon the issue of support for women.

Strengthening the role of women in peace and security is one of the areas that the Government of Japan attaches importance. Just yesterday in Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry of Japan together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized a public symposium on sexual violence in armed conflict. The symposium gathered a number of policy makers, practitioners, and scholars to discuss the challenges and responses to stopping sexual violence in armed conflict.

Japan appreciates the IOM's active involvement in programs to support women in emergency situations, including the initiative of the DG himself as the focal point of the IASC Principals Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PESA). At the UN General Assembly last September, Prime Minister Abe relayed a story from the IOM project to prevent violence against women by providing solar lanterns in cooperation with Panasonic as part of its assistance for displaced people in Mogadishu. Japan continues to seek such means of cooperation with the IOM.

Since our accession to the IOM in 1993, the IOM has become an essential partner not only for Japan's assistance abroad but also in its efforts to meet the challenges in the country associated with the movement of people through support for the return and social reintegration of victims of human trafficking, Japanese language education for foreign children, and refugee resettlement in Japan as well as voluntary return and

social reintegration programs. In addition, Japan appreciates that the Director General Swing's continued participation to the international workshop on the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japan in the past seven years. I would like to reiterate Japan's commitment to continued support for the IOM as the leading agency on migration.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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