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# JAPAN

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Shigeru ENDO**

**The Delegation of JAPAN**

**on the occasion of**

**The 88<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**

**Geneva, 3 December 2004**

**Permanent Mission of JAPAN in Geneva**

JAPAN's statement  
on the 88th Session of IOM Council  
(3rd December, 2004)

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Join my previous speaker in*

Allow me to ~~start by~~ congratulating you, Ambassador Alba of Mexico, on your appointment to your duties as Chair, together with <sup>appointed Bureau Members.</sup> ~~the new~~ <sup>p</sup> ~~1st Vice-Chair, Ambassador Umer of Pakistan, the new 2nd Vice-Chair, Ambassador Ayalogu of Nigeria, and also the new Rapporteur, Mr. Verheyden of Belgium.~~ Also, my deep appreciation goes to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Karklins of Latvia, for his excellent stewardship of the Council as well as the informal consultations.

We welcome ~~the Commonwealth of~~ <sup>A</sup> the Bahamas, the Republic of Estonia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, and the Republic of Turkey as new members, and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a new observer. ~~on this auspicious occasion.~~

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General for their statements which highlighted the key challenges and issues which the IOM and international community <sup>are</sup> faced with.

In this connection, our appreciation also goes to the prominent special guest speakers who made significant contributions to the

International Dialogue on Migration, making this session of the Council a fruitful one.

In order to address these challenges, the IOM has expanded the scope of its work into wider and more varied activities in response to the diversification of the global movement of people under current changing global circumstances. Japan appreciates the IOM's continuous<sup>ed</sup> efforts towards stream-lining and restructuring the Organization in order to vitalize the Organization's mandatory activities effectively and efficiently, thereby maximizing the benefits for Member countries and the people of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has positively supported IOM activities in various ways. One ~~of~~ pillar of our cooperation is in the field of counter-trafficking in persons. We supported several projects and activities in the Asian region through the IOM and other international organizations.

Japan, together with our neighboring Asian countries, has been actively involved in the so-called "Bali Process", the follow-up process of the Asian and Pacific Regional Ministerial Conferences to Combat People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime ~~which was started at the initiative of both the Australian and Indonesian governments~~.

Japan, in appreciation of the work of the IOM in this process, has provided financial assistance to the web site of the Bali Process. The web site, which is managed by the IOM Thai office, is very helpful for promoting information exchange and is useful as a tool for regional capacity building.

Mr. Chairman,

Another pillar of Japan's international cooperation is humanitarian assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons through rapid response via the IOM for emergency relief programmes, for example, for IDPs in Darfur, Afghanistan and East Timor.

Japan recognized the seriousness of the Darfur humanitarian situation from a very early stage, and so far provided several financial contributions as much as possible through the IOM and other international organizations. <sup>In fact,</sup> On November 19th, Japan disbursed US\$2 million in cash to the IOM for the Darfur IDPs project.

~~Allow me to now call for the attention of the Director-General~~

~~Mr. Director-General,~~  
Mr. Chairman,

It is said in the humanitarian community that coordination and cooperation among the international agencies and NGOs for the assistance of IDPs in the field in Darfur are not always going well. Japan believes that, in order to utilize limited resources to the fullest extent possible for the benefit of the people in Darfur, it is essential to <sup>enhance</sup> ~~further strengthen~~ coordination and cooperation among the humanitarian agencies and NGOs, and to improve the efficiency of project implementation. This should be done through the over-all coordination of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan with OCHA's Support, under the authority of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sudan and the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Mr

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Despite all the efforts of the international community, durable solutions have not yet reached many regions. Perhaps the answer is a lack of political will or operational resources, but Japan's own answer goes further to a lack of a concrete approach on the ground to underpin the collaboration among the States concerned, the IOM and its partners and other international organizations, including development agencies.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to introduce Japan's basic philosophy and objectives in its international cooperation, *and so doing explain to you how we we tackle the question of humanitarian issues.*

Humanitarian crises have a multi-faceted nature. Therefore, Japan takes a comprehensive approach, placing great value on aligning and combining conflict-prevention, peace-building, humanitarian assistance and development; Japan's approach is not limited to humanitarian assistance alone.

The basic spirit of our "**pragmatic**" approach is "**solidarity**" with the recipient people, based on "**ownership**" and "**partnership**." This is different from the concept of "charity." We respect people's will and power to be the owners of the improvement of their lives, and support their own efforts, as a partner, with our various assistance schemes. We think the ownership of ordinary people is the foundation of nation building. For this purpose, Japan especially attaches importance to its field-oriented assistance.

In other words, in our view, the real key is to work with ordinary people of their own volition on equal footing. Those people who are assisted and become more self-reliant will then be in a far better position to empower other vulnerable people. We believe people are most empowered when they engage themselves in empowering others, and that ~~the~~ community empowerment with local ownership will thus materialize. This is why people can be the agent for development, and how the bottom-up approach works on the ground. This is our human-centered concept of Japan's "**Human Security**."

"Human Security" aims to protect vulnerable people from critical and pervasive threats to human lives, livelihoods and dignity, thus enhancing human fulfillment. For these objectives, human security tries to integrate and strengthen initiatives that emphasize human-centered perspectives through the empowerment of vulnerable people to help them survive on their own, respecting each person's potential to be a self-reliant human being.

With this in mind, we are pleased to help the IOM find a responsible way to exit by facilitating discussions on targeting assistance for refugees and IDPs in a more field-focused manner.

Mr. Chairman,

Last but not the least, Japan, as a major donor to the IOM, continues to extend strong support to the IOM in its effort to further enhance its effectiveness in consideration of the impact on vulnerable people and donors alike, as well as on the efficiency and accountability in its financial and operational mechanisms.

Japan also commends the initiative of the IOM on cost-saving, and requests the IOM to further address carefully all the issues by employing a clear idea of the prioritizes among the various needs and demands.

Chieko jr

I thank you for your attention.