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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Misako KAJI

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organization
in Geneva**

On the occasion of the General Debate at the 106th Session of the IOM Council

Geneva, 25 November, 2015

Introduction

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to welcome the new Member States and observers and also congratulate the new Bureau Members on their election.

This year the world has been witnessing humanitarian crises of unprecedented scale and gravity. Japan expresses its deepest respect for Director General Ambassador Swing and his staff around the world who are actively addressing these crises under difficult conditions.

Director General's Report

(Migrant and Refugee Issues)

Mr. Chairman

The migrant and refugee situation around the world, Europe, Middle East,

Africa and Asia including the Andaman Sea are among the most serious challenges that the international community currently faces. In this regard, Japan welcomes the focus on of the migration issue including Goal 10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September at the UN General Assembly. To prevent the flows of forced migrants and refugees, we stress the importance of promoting sustainable development and tackling their root causes. Japan wishes to further increase support to member states and migrants through cooperation with the IOM.

(IOM-UN Relations)

Japan welcomes that the Resolution on IOM-UN Relations has just been adopted by this council, well prepared under the able leadership of the chairmanship of the working group. Japan is fully behind this resolution. Japan strongly hopes that this Resolution be duly put into practice by the Director General, while the UN system as a whole avails itself.

Japan highly evaluates the IOM for its strong field-centered approach, its high level of flexibility, and its cost-effectiveness. Employing these strengths, we ask the IOM to enhance its cooperation with the UN and other agencies, while avoiding duplication of its activities, to further promote legal and safe “movement of people.” Assuring the safety of staff in the field is vital importance for the IOM. From this viewpoint, we place particular importance on enhancing the IOM’s

linkages with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) under the continued membership of Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN).

(Second Year of Budgetary Reforms)

Japan welcomes the progress report on the 2014-2016 Budget Strengthening Plan by the Standing Committee on Programme and Finance (SCPF). We appreciate the execution of financial reforms by the IOM between 1995 and 2013 resulting in almost zero nominal growth maintained for 18 years. Evaluating this as an exceptional dealing, Japan accepted a 12 % increase in assessed contributions and an increase from 5 % to 7% in administration costs at the 103 IOM Council of 2013. Japan understands that the increased budget will be predominantly allotted to increasing staff numbers, developing staff competencies, strengthening field offices, and analyzing migration data. We believe that it is essential to carefully analyze how these new budgetary measures will contribute to strengthening the IOM organization when considering the budget for 2017 and after. As such, we look forward to receiving a report on the analysis of the budgetary reform early next year.

Japan's Priorities

(Humanitarian Assistance)

Mr. Chairman,

At the end of 2014 more than 60 million persons were reported to have been displaced; the greatest number since the Second World War. We currently face recurring large scale humanitarian crises that are becoming more and more protracted. We believe that it is possible to contribute to the sustainable development of host countries as well as to post-repatriation recovery and reconstruction by enhancing the linkages between humanitarian and development assistance from the early stages of humanitarian crises. In the run up to the World Humanitarian Summit in May next year, Japan intends to develop this idea by supporting increased cooperation between stakeholders in humanitarian and development assistance.

(Disaster Risk Reduction)

In March this year the World assembled in Sendai to adopt the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We were honoured to welcome Director General Ambassador Swing as speaker and panelist at the conference. The core objective of the Sendai framework is to promote cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders, investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction, and to “Build Back Better.” Japan highly appreciates the cooperation provided by the IOM for Japan’s international emergency relief team and Self-Defense Force medical team at the time of the Nepal earthquake in May this year. In keeping with the goals of

the Sendai Framework, we will continue to cooperate with the IOM to assist disaster affected regions in the world during post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

(Public and Private Sector Partnerships)

Japan welcomes the IOM's increased partnership with the private sector in the aim of expanding its donor base. The IOM has partnered with Japanese private enterprises in areas including provision of solar lanterns and water purification systems which lead to better security for women and to access to safe water. With the introduction of the IOM Private Sector Partnership Strategy 2016-2020, we look forward to further progress in providing such innovative solutions. We would appreciate regular reporting from the IOM on financial contribution from the private sector under this strategy.

I thank you.