

Statement by Ambassador Ken OKANIWA
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan
To the International Organizations in Geneva
110th IOM Council

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In view of the rapidly increasing number of refugees and displaced persons, the role of IOM as the only UN organization in charge of migration is important as ever before. Currently IOM is confronted with the need to transform itself as a UN related organization tasked with an additional role as the coordinator of UN Network on Migration. Let me take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Director General Vitorino for his leadership.

Mr Chairman,

In August, Japan hosted TICAD VII in Yokohama. We would like to thank IOM for its cooperation and for hosting an important side-event. At TICAD VII, Japan announced its initiative to build resilient and sustainable societies in Africa for the purpose of achieving human security and SDGs. Japan also expressed its intention to support Africa's efforts to achieve peace and stability through cooperation on institution-building among others, provide emergency and humanitarian aid for refugees/displaced persons and host communities, and assistance for them to become self-reliant.

Japan will continue to support countries in need all over the globe in cooperation with IOM and Member States.

Japan looks forward to IOM fulfilling its role regarding implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). Japan will cooperate with IOM for the regional review to be held next year.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan believes it is important for IOM to become more efficient and effective in organizational management. To this end, Japan supports the proposal to create one additional DDG post and abolish elections for the DDG. Japan appreciates the Director General's emphasis on regional balance of its staff and requests due consideration to the Asia region.

Japan highly commends the cost-saving efforts taken by IOM. For example, it relocated some of the functions of the Headquarters to Manila. It maintained a nominal zero increase of assessed contributions for more than 10 years. And it also employs the lowest number of headquarters-based staff among all international organizations. We understand that this progress has been achieved through diligent efforts on the part of IOM.

Now that the Strategic Vision has been finalized, the discussion of the structural changes, including financial issues, will begin accordingly. Japan will actively participate in the discussion. In this regard, Japan requests IOM to share information of the justification of change of financial structure as well as the efforts taken by IOM for further cost saving.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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