

Statement of H.E. Mr. Shinichi KITAJIMA,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan,  
for the IOM Council Meeting, 30th November 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I would like to express my congratulations to the new Bureau members.

Japan also congratulates and welcomes the new Member States and Observers, which were admitted by acclamation yesterday.

I want to thank the Director-General for his report yesterday, which gave us a comprehensive overview of the state of migration at present, the state of the Organization as well as the five-year outlook of the Organization. Japan reiterates its appreciation to the Director-General for his leadership and tireless efforts since his assumption of the position to make the Organization more effective and efficient.

Mr. Chairperson,

(Budget reform)

Japan appreciates the Administration's proposal of a non-increase in the Administrative part of budget in 2011 by absorbing statutory increases through a variety of efficiency measures and adjustments, taking into account the current financial difficulties that Member States face. Japan hopes that the Working Group on Budget Reform will find a satisfactory solution that can ensure more effective and efficient activities for the IOM after careful scrutiny of the Administrative part of budget. Although I am about to complete my tenure as the Chairperson of the Working Group, Japan renews its commitment to be actively involved in such an important process.

Mr. Chairperson,

(IOM Strategy)

The review of IOM Strategy provides us with a good opportunity to take a fresh look at the IOM's priorities and to discuss its policies among the Member States. Japan would like to know more about the comparative advantages of the IOM vis-à-vis other agencies, and to be kept informed of its achievements in each strategic area. To make IOM activities more visible, efficient, effective and strategy-oriented and to make full use of the know-how and expertise of the Member States of the IOM, Japan welcomes the draft resolution on the review of the IOM's Strategy, which requires the Administration to report on a regular basis to the Member States on the progress of IOM's work in relation to the Strategy.

(Structural Reform)

Japan welcomes the progress report on Structural Reform given by the Deputy Director-General during the last SCPF meeting. Japan appreciates the transparency of the process as well as the careful handling of the project endorsement transfer from Headquarters to the Regional Offices. Japan hopes to see successful structural changes in the field in the coming two years.

Mr. Chairperson,

(Cooperation between Japan and the IOM)

Cooperation between the IOM and Japan has been significantly stepped up over the last several years.

This year, with the support of the IOM and the UNHCR, Japan started a three-year pilot project on the resettlement of refugees, which is the first of its kind to be conducted in Asia. A group of thirty Myanmar refugees in Thailand will be coming to Japan each year, the first of which arrived in September. They are currently taking part in a resettlement assistance program for a six-month period.

Second, the Government of Japan and the IOM have held a joint symposium on the theme of "Social integration of foreign residents" in Japan in recent years, with the IOM Director-General in attendance. These seminars have succeeded in raising the awareness of the public and have been helpful in bringing greater attention to the authorities concerned with these issues, and we

look forward to continuing them.

Third, Japan benefited from the IOM's expertise on emergency and humanitarian assistance when the international community was confronted with the unprecedented devastation caused by natural disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti and floods in Pakistan this year.

Lastly, the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities between Japan and the IOM entered into force on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August this year. Japan hopes the Agreement will reduce the costs to the Organization and facilitate the activities of the IOM Tokyo Office.

Mr. Chairperson,

(Human Security Fund)

The concept of Human Security is indispensable in dealing with migration issues. In this context, we are very pleased to know that the IOM has made use of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, to which the Government of Japan is a major contributor. We hope that two on-going projects in Moldova and Thailand will be successfully carried out in order to further Human Security, and encourage the IOM to further access the Human Security Fund.

Mr. Chairperson,

Before I finish, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff of the IOM and the representatives of Member States for their support and cooperation during my Chairmanship of the Council.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the six IOM staff members who lost their lives during the course of their duties in 2010.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.