

Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Resolution 1888
Wednesday, 30 September, 2009

Statement by H.E. Mr. Takasu, Representative of Japan to the United Nations

I should like to extend a warm welcome to you, Madam, and to thank you for personally presiding over this important meeting of the Security Council. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for their presence and their leadership.

Japan is pleased with the unanimous adoption of resolution 1888 (2009), and highly appreciates the initiative taken by the delegation of the United States. This resolution manifests the strong commitment of the Security Council to combating sexual violence, which is still prevalent in so many conflict areas in the world. The resolution provides significant added value to last year's milestone resolution 1820 (2008). It calls on us to meet urgent needs on the ground and to transform our commitment in action. In particular, it enhances a coordinated United Nations response to sexual violence in armed conflict and strengthens United Nations support for national authorities in strengthening the rule of law.

We need first of all to strengthen measures to protect victims of sexual violence, but we must also end the impunity enjoyed by violators. At the same time, I should like to emphasize the importance of supporting and empowering women and children in vulnerable situations. We need to support them in realizing their full potential, even under difficult circumstances, through the provision of health services, education and vocational training, and to ensure the recurrence of conflict and sexual violence is avoided.

In the general debate last week, Prime Minister Hatoyama stressed the value of the human security approach, that is to say, not only to protect but to empower every individual to live in safety and dignity. I believe that the human security approach could provide useful guidance on assisting women and children in armed conflict. From this point of view, Japan once again welcomes the adoption of resolution 1888 (2009).