

**Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Council, April 2014, Security Council Chamber**  
*Statement by Mr. Yoshikawa, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.*

First of all, I would like to thank the Secretary-General and his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Bangura, for their briefings. I would also like to thank Ms. Rhoda Misaka for her powerful briefing as a representative of civil society.

Japan welcomes the latest report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item (S/2014/181). Newly introduced national-level policy recommendations will help the Security Council to continuously monitor country-specific situations. Japan also appreciates that the report highlights the role of United Nations Action as a coordination mechanism, and its activities on enhancing prevention.

Security Council resolution 2106 (2013) provided, for the first time, the theme of sexual violence in conflict with a comprehensive prevention framework.

We believe that the emphasis on prevention is vital if we are ever to defeat conflict-related sexual violence.

Progress on the ground is dependent upon concrete action by both national Governments and civil society in affected countries. The international community must support them to achieve change on the ground.

The Japanese Government fully supports the Special Representative of the Secretary-General's new priorities of strengthening national ownership, leadership and responsibility. In appreciation of the work of the Special Representative, the Japanese Government invited Ms. Bangura to Japan last November. During her visit, Prime Minister Abe reassured her of Japan's commitment to cooperating closely with her Office.

We are deepening our collaboration with her Office, as well as its Team of Experts and United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. Japan is now the second largest contributor to the Special Representative's Office, after Sweden.

One example of Japan's assistance is a contribution of \$2 million dollars to support the work of the Team of Experts in Somalia and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In those countries, the Special Representative and her Team of Experts, through their engagement efforts, have succeeded in forging political commitments with national Governments. Joint communiqués were later signed between the Special Representative and the respective Governments. Japan's financial contribution will help those Governments to implement the communiqués.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, we are helping the Government expand and consolidate the special police for the protection of women and children. We will also support the activities of the special representative of President Kabila on sexual violence once that post is filled.

Furthermore, on International Women's Day, the Japanese Mission and the Office of the Special Representative co-hosted a special event here in New York in order to raise awareness of the topic we are discussing today. We look forward to further cooperation with the Special Representative in that regard, including at the upcoming Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, to be held in London in June.