

**Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, June 24<sup>th</sup> 2013, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. Nishida, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.*

At the outset, I would like to thank the Right Honourable William Hague, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, for holding this very important debate. Japan appreciates the United Kingdom's initiative on preventing sexual violence in conflict, including the Group of Eight (G-8) process.

I also would like to thank the Secretary-General and his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict for their respective briefings. I would also like to thank and welcome the participation of the representatives from civil society.

Japan welcomes today's adoption of resolution 2106 (2013), which further strengthens the framework established by the previous relevant resolutions and contains critical operational guidance. As described in the historic Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict adopted at the Group of Eight Summit, held in London on 11 April — the early implementation of which was encouraged by the G-8 leaders last week — despite various efforts, sexual violence in conflict continues to occur in the twenty-first century, and we share the view that more must be done to address these ongoing crimes. Japan is committed to holding perpetrators to account and to supporting victims.

First, in order to prevent sexual violence, we need to raise the cost to perpetrators and end the culture of impunity. In this regard, it is essential that we support national Governments in meeting their own challenges in terms of justice and accountability, and that we strengthen international justice mechanisms. With regard to the former, Japan is helping national Governments to develop their legal systems and facilitate security sector reform. With regard to the latter, Japan attaches great importance to the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Japan, as a leading contributor to the ICC, believes that there is a need to further promote the Court's universality, and expects the dialogue and collaboration between the Security Council and the ICC to deepen.

Furthermore, the effective investigation and documentation of crimes of sexual violence are instrumental in bringing perpetrators to justice. To that end, developing the capacity of national Governments to investigate crimes and raising awareness of and sensitivity to sexual violence are both essential. In that regard, Japan believes that providing standard guidelines would be useful, and therefore supports the development of an international protocol on the investigation and documentation of sexual violence in conflict.

Secondly, we also recognize the importance of providing relief to the victims of sexual violence. Japan is committed to ensuring that multi-sectoral assistance and services are provided to victims. In this connection, we would like to mention that, in April of this year, Mr. Motoo Noguchi, a former judge in the Supreme Court Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia, was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims.

Thirdly, Japan recently made a contribution of \$1 million to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, which is managed by UN-Women. We are also currently taking part in efforts to raise awareness of the Fund, and to expand its donor base, including private sector donors.

In closing, Japan reiterates its full support for the mandate of Special Representative Bangura and commends her proactive engagements. We would also like to underline the important role played by the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict in fostering national

ownership, leadership and responsibility in addressing sexual violence. Japan strongly supports their efforts and will cooperate closely with them.