



Statement by H.E. Mr. Hideaki Ueda,
Ambassador in charge of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Japan,
at the high level meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to make a statement on behalf of the Government of Japan at the high level meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the occasion of this meeting, Japan believes it important to recall the original purpose of the Durban Conference that was held in 2001, entitled “unite against racism”.

The Government of Japan appreciates the efforts of all participants who has been contributing to the Durban Process over the past ten years in accordance with this purpose, and we hope that all the nations take more practical and effective measures to fight against all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance in accordance with the progress of discussion following the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

In this regard, Japan supports the outcome document that will be adopted at this meeting. This document states that the international society will continue to unite for our common goal, that is, elimination of racism.

Mr. Chairperson,

In 2001, Japan issued the following statement in Durban: “The way ahead of us is far and difficult. With solid conviction and through promoting mutual understanding, we shall overcome the evil of discrimination and create a truly coexistent society which tolerates and respects difference and diversity”.

We, the Government of Japan, on the basis of this concept and the spirit declared in our Constitution, will fight against any discrimination whether it is race or ethnicity, and continue to make efforts to this end.

For example, Japan has been taken measures such as carrying out policies in order to respect and protect the culture of Ainu people, and raising public awareness with a view to deepening due understanding and recognition about Ainu people. Japan will continue to work for the elimination of the intolerance against diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles.

The Government of Japan has been calling for the elimination of racial discrimination since 1920 when the League of Nations was established. In this regard, the elimination of racism is our strong and constant desire, and we wish that the international society will, on this memorial tenth anniversary, unite stronger and take further actions for our common goal of the elimination of racism.

Thank you for your attention.
