

(Check against delivery)

Statement by Mr. Akihiro Okochi, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

Fifth Committee
Sixty-sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you on assuming the important post of Chairman of the Fifth Committee. My delegation is glad that a person with such a long experience and vast knowledge in budgetary and administrative matters will guide us during this session.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me touch upon two points at the beginning of this 66th session to which my delegation will attach great importance.

First, my delegation would like to reiterate the essentiality of agreement by consensus in this committee. As all of us are fully aware, this committee is distinct from other committees of the General Assembly in that we reach agreement by consensus according to Resolution 41/213. This resolution requires us to make all possible efforts until the last minute, if necessary even until the early morning, with a view to establishing the broadest possible agreement. While the 65th session witnessed some tough moments, my delegation is pleased that this committee was able to adopt all major resolutions by consensus. The 66th session has as challenging an agenda as the previous one, but my delegation is confident that, with the spirit of cooperation, we can continue to follow this excellent tradition in the coming session.

Second, my delegation would like to point out the importance of discussing systemic issues. While the most important challenge during this main session will be on the 2012-2013 budget proposals, we will also discuss some essential systemic issues including SPM's funding and backstopping arrangements and re-costing methodologies. These issues, which will define the backbone of UN's budgetary process thenceforth, deserve sufficient time and attention from all the delegates so that the Fifth Committee can tackle them through a thorough and profound analysis. For this reason, my delegation would like to request the Secretariat to submit reports on those issues as soon as possible and encourage other delegates to deliberate on those issues in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me assure you once again that my delegation will engage in the negotiation in a constructive manner under your excellent guidance all through this session.