

Statement by Mr. Akihiro Okochi, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
Agenda item 134: ICT, Umoja/ERP

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to **Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar**, Controller, **Mr. CHOI Soon-hong**, the Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) and **Mr. Collen Kelapile**, Chair of the ACABQ, for introducing their reports.

Mr. Chairman,

First, the Japanese delegation wishes to express its concern about the 2-year delay in the implementation of Umoja/ERP. Given the fact that Umoja/ERP is an essential element in the introduction of IPSAS to the UN Secretariat, which was agreed upon by the Member States in 2005, and that a significant amount of resources, exceeding some 120 million dollars, have already been invested on this project, we believe that it would be inadvisable to give up halfway through its implementation because it has met some difficulties. Our delegation strongly encourages the Secretariat to focus its attentions and energies on this project, so that Umoja/ERP may be implemented by the end of 2015 within the initial budget estimate of 315 million dollars, as committed by the Secretary-General in his report. In this respect, our delegation feels that the high vacancy among the Umoja/ERP team as well as its subject-matter experts, if left unaddressed, will continue to impede the timely and cost-effective implementation of the project. For this reason, our delegation requests the Secretary-General and other senior

staff members of the Secretariat to pay sufficient attention to this issue and, if necessary, to address it in person.

Second, with regard to the ICT strategy; our delegation fully acknowledges the problems that stem from the fragmented state of ICT resources in the Secretariat and also understands that significant benefits will be produced by addressing this issue through implementing greater coherence and coordination of the management of ICT activities. On the other hand, we also understand the situation that this Organization currently faces, now more than ever, the necessity of tighter budgetary discipline, as demonstrated by the Secretary-General's initiative in formulating a 2012-2013 programme budget proposal. Our delegation also would like to point out that, as mentioned earlier, this Organization has to address a daunting task to implement the Umoja/ERP project. Our delegation firmly believes that further prioritization should be made among these ICT projects. In this regard, our delegation is looking forward to receiving sufficient explanation from the Secretariat not only of the benefits of these projects but also of the feasibility of the Secretariat successfully executing a large number of complex, management reform initiatives concurrently with the management of the Umoja/ERP project, as pointed out in the ACABQ report.

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation would like to assure you once again that we will participate actively in the consultations on this agenda item under your able guidance.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.