

(Statement from Japan mission)

Mr. Chair,

At the end of this second resumed session, our delegation would like to raise three points.

First, our delegation would like to express our satisfaction to see this session being concluded in a positive and cooperative spirit. Compared with last year, the mere fact that this formal session takes place on 12th June shows how constructively we have been engaged in our discussions. Our delegation strongly hopes that this spirit will be maintained and strengthened during the forthcoming session where we will address many challenging but important items such as scale of assessment and mobility policy. Our delegation would also like to express our appreciation once again to the Chair of this Committee for his leadership.

Second, it is striking that the overall budget level of peacekeeping missions which was agreed on in this committee is more than 6% lower than last year's budget level. However, our delegation is fully aware that this reduction stems largely from the reduction of mandates of several peacekeeping missions. With that in mind, our delegation would like to encourage the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to find out more structural and sustainable efficiency gains through, *inter alia*, the efforts made by the Resource Efficiency Group.

Last but not least, this committee agreed on the interim measures on the troop costs. However, as our delegation has stressed several times, this issue requires a mid- and long-term solution. In this respect, our delegation would like to encourage all delegates to actively engage in the discussions on the troop costs in accordance with the recommendations to be made by the Senior Advisory Group, with a view to reaching a balanced and sustainable solution which bears great importance for the valuable partnership for peacekeeping operations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.