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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Toshiya Hoshino
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations**

**Agenda Item 135: Proposed Programme Budget for 2020
and Agenda Item 136: Proposed Programme Plan for 2020**

**Main Part of the 74th Session of the Fifth Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly
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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to extend my appreciation to His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General for his introduction of the Proposed Programme Plan and the Proposed Programme Budget for 2020. I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Chair of the fifty-ninth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, and Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing their respective reports.

The 2020 programme budget is the first annual budget on a trial basis since the implementation phase of the reform started in January. I would like to recall that my delegation emphasized the particular importance of full transparency and accountability during the reform discussions. Ensuring transparency and accountability continues to be of critical importance in annualized budget.

In this connection, my delegation will carefully examine the methodology it employed, in light of, inter alia, relevant resolutions of the Assembly, as well as the respective requirements therein. On the presentation of the budget proposal, my delegation appreciates the efforts by the Secretary General to submit the first single-year budget with a refreshed style and presentation. My delegation would like to pay close attention to such aspects as to whether necessary and sufficient information is presented in the budget proposals to justify the required resources.

Mr. Chair,

Japan notes that the Secretary-General proposes a budget level of 2.8683 billion US dollars for 2020 before re-costing. We would like to assess the overall level of the proposed budget as objectively as possible. We are also interested in having a comprehensive picture with respect to the 2020 budget encompassing those elements which are not included in the present proposals but will be subsequently considered in the context of the same budget.

Finally, Mr. Chair, my delegation is committed to engaging positively and constructively in the negotiations in order to achieve consensual outcome on this important agenda items as efficient as possible. You can count on my delegation's full cooperation in that regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.