

STATEMENT BY MR. KENGO OTSUKA
REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
AT THE MEETING OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
ON THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

10 OCTOBER 2012

(Check Against Delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to begin by welcoming the declaration of High-Level Meeting of the 67th Session of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels which was adopted by consensus on 24 September 2012 and to express sincere appreciation to the Co-Facilitators of the draft declaration for their tireless and tremendous efforts to give life to the very first outcome document on the rule of law adopted at a high-level meeting in UN history. Our delegation is firmly determined to continue to engage actively in the follow-up discussions on the rule of law based upon the outcome of the High-Level Meeting.

Japan strongly believes that the rule of law plays a pivotal role in maintaining international peace and security through the prevention, diffusion and peaceful settlement of international disputes. In particular, Japan attaches great importance to the role of the international courts and tribunals in strengthening the rule of law at the international level. Japan's consistent acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) since 1958 illustrates this belief and calls upon all States that have not done so to do the same. Japan has also been a staunch supporter of international courts and tribunals, including the ICJ, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) as well as the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), not only through our substantial financial contribution but also by providing judges to all these organizations. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Mr. Chairman,

It is commendable that the International Law Commission (ILC) has played an important role in the area of codification of international law and the progressive development of international law. The United Nations has adopted many codification treaties on the basis of the work of the ILC, including such important conventions as those on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and the Law of Treaties. Japan believes that the universality of these conventions is of great importance, and extends its appreciation to the ILC for its tireless work since its establishment in 1947.

Regional frameworks have also played a crucial role in promoting the rule of law at the international level. One such example is the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, the activities of which Japan has always strongly supported. Japan also commends the work of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law for its essential role in advancing education on and the dissemination of international law.

Japan would also like to point out the importance of international cooperation to advance the rule of law at national levels. Assistance towards developing countries is especially important. In this connection, it is essential to develop legal systems and human resources in each State. Based on our own experience, Japan has been extending support in various forms in this area, especially in the countries of Asia-Pacific region, and remains committed to do so.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Japan is determined to continue its effort and cooperate with other Member States, international organizations and civil societies towards the collective goal of enhancing the rule of law.

I thank you.