

STATEMENT BY MR. KENGO OTSUKA
REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
AT THE MEETING OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
ON THE MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
7 OCTOBER 2013

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the chairman of the Sixth Committee, and assure you that we will extend our full support to you during this session under your chairmanship. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

Terrorism targets innocent civilians and poses a threat to peace, democracy and freedom. Japan joins other delegations in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterates our commitment to combat terrorism.

Despite global efforts, the threat of terrorism remains high and real. Last month, we witnessed a hideous terrorist attack in Kenya. The terrorist incident in Algeria this January is also still vivid in our memory, where more than 30 people were killed, including 10 Japanese citizens. Japan expresses its deepest condolences for those who lost their lives in these attacks and for their bereaved families.

Mr. Chairman,

To eliminate such heinous acts, Japan is determined to make efforts in the fight against terrorism by cooperating with the international community.

The United Nations has a pivotal role in coordinating efforts by Member States for combating and preventing terrorism. In that regard, Japan recognizes the necessity of appointing a U.N. Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, as long as the establishment of such a post would help the U.N. counter-terrorism measures to be more efficient, coherent and integrated. We also attach importance to establishing a legal basis for international efforts to fight against terrorism and are committed to a successful conclusion of the negotiation process for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the U.N., while believing that a high-level conference regarding the convention should come together with its adoption.

Even outside the U.N. framework, Japan is making efforts to strengthen international counter-terrorism measures. Japan has decided to provide additional assistance of approximately \$16 million to support improving the counter-terrorism capacity of countries facing terrorism threats, including those countries in North Africa and the Sahel region. Furthermore, at the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) this June, Prime Minister Abe announced approximately \$1 billion in humanitarian and development assistance over the next five years and also human resources development for 2,000 people responsible for anti-terrorism measures and security in North Africa and the Sahel region.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Japan reiterates its determination to contribute to eradication of terrorism and expresses its expectation for the U.N.'s leadership in this field.

I thank you.