

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

9 October 2013

(Check Against Delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Japan wishes to reiterate its strong support for the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, without which, any societal system would be deprived of its foundation.

In particular, international courts and tribunals play a vital role in maintaining peace and security through peaceful settlement of disputes, in strengthening the rule-based system with fair and impartial application of the law. The invaluable work of the international judicial bodies was reaffirmed in the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law last year. Japan attaches much importance to supporting international courts and tribunals, *inter alia*, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Not only our substantial financial contribution but also Japanese nationals serving as judges in these judicial institutions attest to our commitment.

One of the purposes of the General Assembly is to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification as set out in Article 13 of the U.N. Charter. In this regard, Japan commends the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) playing an important role in codifying and elucidating international law and thereby contributing to the development of a stable and predictable international legal system. On the basis of the work of the ILC, the United Nations has adopted many treaties

and guidelines. In the 68th session, the Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers, intended to provide the basis for equitable and reasonable utilization and proper management of transboundary aquifers, will be discussed in this committee. Japan firmly believes that the Draft Articles provide a good basis for the development of a stable system in the field of underground water management. My Government particularly looks forward to fruitful discussions on the Draft Articles during the third week of the session. The Six Committee will discuss other important draft articles in this session; namely Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, Diplomatic Protection, and Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm. Japan wishes to contribute to fruitful discussion on these topics as well.

Regional frameworks have 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 and remains committed to doing so. Moreover, international cooperation to advance the Rule of Law at the national level by providing assistance to developing countries is also important. It is essential to develop stable legal systems and human resources capable of conducting sound administration of justice in each State. Japan has been extending support in this area, especially in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and remains committed to continuing to do so.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Japan is determined to continue its cooperation with other Member States as well as international organizations towards the collective goal of enhancing the Rule of Law.

I thank you.