

STATEMENT BY Mr. Hiroshi Ishikawa
REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
AT THE MEETING OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
ON THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LEVELS

9 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Japan wishes to reiterate its strong support for the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, with conviction that without which, any societal system would be deprived of its foundation. Japan considers the promotion of the Rule of Law as one of the pillars of its diplomatic policy. The Rule of Law consists of three dimensions, as I understand it, and I believe it is important for Member States to contribute to each of the dimensions.

Firstly, consolidation of the basis of the Rule of Law, namely the progressive development of international law and its codification, as stipulated in Art 13 of the UN Charter, is essential for establishing a stable and predictable international legal system. In this regard, Japan commends the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) and also reaffirms the role of the Sixth Committee. The ILC has submitted the valuable report to this committee, which includes the topics deliberated in the Sixty-sixth Session of the Commission. Japan expects an active discussion on the reports and hopes it leads to the further development of international law.

Secondly, peaceful settlement of disputes by fair and impartial application of international law using international courts and tribunals strengthen the peace and stability of international community. To this end, Japan has accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Japan welcomes the publication of the Handbook on accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and it also expects the

Handbook will be helpful to Member States that have not accepted ICJ's compulsory jurisdiction yet to reconsider. Japan has also been a staunch supporter of other international courts, such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), not only through our financial contributions, but also by sending competent judges to all of these organizations. Japan has also supported the activity of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

Thirdly, regional frameworks have played a crucial role in promoting the Rule of Law on both the international and domestic levels. For example, Japan has maintained its strong support toward the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). It is also important to promote international cooperation to advance the Rule of Law at the national level by providing assistance including human resource development to developing countries, so that stable national legal systems can be achieved. Japan has been extending support in this area, especially in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, and remains committed to doing so.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me highlight Japan's determination to continue its cooperation with other Member States as well as with international organizations towards further enhancement of the Rule of Law.

I thank you.