

Statement by Mr. Haruka Sawada
At the Meeting of the Sixth Committee
on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

8 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to Assistant Secretary-General Fabrizio Hochschild for his briefing on the United Nations' rule of law activities.

The essence of rule of law lies in the supremacy of law over arbitrary powers, ensuring that power is exercised to protect and benefit the people. In this time of turmoil, a predictable international rules-based order also makes friendly and equitable relations possible between States. The rule of law provides the essential foundation for a just and fair society at both the national and international levels, and its promotion is one of the pillars of Japan's foreign policy.

The international judicial organs play a crucial role in ensuring the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Noteworthy among these organs are the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), to name a few. Japan attaches great importance to the work of these organs and therefore continues to provide both financial support and highly qualified judges and officials. As mentioned by other delegations, the Rome Statute recently celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its adoption. Japan has also consistently supported the ICC since its inception. While there is a still long way to go, we think that over the past two decades, the ICC has made steady progress in investigating and prosecuting the most serious crimes of international concern, thereby contributing to the rule of law. I wish to express our continuous commitment to supporting the ICC in its fight against impunity.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation greatly appreciates the role of the UN in promoting and universalizing the rule of law, as described in the report. Specifically, the General Assembly plays a vital role in ensuring the progressive development and codification of international law. We welcome that this year active discussions were held at the International Law

Commission (ILC) and in particular we were pleased to support the event to mark seventieth anniversary of the Commission. Of note was the ability for sixth committee delegates to observe the lively and in depth discussion among the ILC members since half of the session took place here in New York. We look forward to a similar fruitful debate later this month.

Mr. Chairman,

On its own terms, Japan undertakes a broad range of rule of law support activities, both domestically and internationally, so that it can do its part in the promotion of rule of law. For example, we work closely with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) to promote discussion among its Member States on current topics related to international law. Just this week, Japan is hosting annual session of the AALCO in Tokyo and we are very pleased to welcome USG Miguel de Serpa Soares as a key note speaker. Furthermore, showing our commitments to the SDGs and in particular Goal 16, we are honored to host the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 2020 in Kyoto.

The rule of law is also woven closely into our international assistance efforts. Capacity building for justice and rule of law institutions features prominently in aid efforts by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). We believe that those efforts will help to advance the rule of law in the long run all over the globe.

These are just a few examples, but I hope they provide an illustration of Japan's ongoing commitment to enhancing the rule of law. Our efforts will never cease.

Thank you.