



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY H.E. Mr. TAKAHIRO SHINYO
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
ON AGENDA ITEM 76
REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
1 November 2007

President of the General Assembly,
President of the International Criminal Court,
Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to speak today on behalf of the Government of Japan on the agenda of the International Criminal Court at this distinguished Assembly presided over by H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim. My delegation would like to express its appreciation to President Philippe Kirsch for his comprehensive report on the current situation of the ICC and the Court's achievements over the past year.

Mr. President,

I am especially privileged to address the General Assembly this year, as this statement is the first intervention by the Government of Japan under this agenda item as a full-fledged State Party to the Rome Statute. I would like to report to all Member States that Japan deposited its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute this year on the highly symbolic day of 17 July, World Day of Justice, and has become its 105th State Party as of 1 October. The internal process of the ratification was not without its difficulties. President Kirsch, who visited Japan last December at the invitation of the Government, had productive talks and exchanges of views with Japanese political leaders, which surely provided a timely impetus to accelerate the process of Japan's accession to the ICC.

Mr. President,

I would like to pay high tribute to the efforts of the ICC to effectively address the four situations in Africa currently under investigation. Japan welcomes the most recent development in DRC, that is, the second arrest and surrender of a perpetrator. I believe that the devoted work of the ICC in Africa will certainly contribute to peace and stability on the continent, and thus lead to the realization of a more vibrant Africa. Japan attaches the utmost importance to the issues of Africa in its diplomacy and will be hosting the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in Yokohama next May. From this broader perspective, Japan also will continue to pay close attention to the development of the ICC's work regarding the situations in Africa.

Mr. President,

As a new member of the ICC, Japan wishes to contribute to the maximum extent possible to the development of the ICC. From the financial perspective, Japan now becomes the biggest contributor to the ICC, providing 22% of its budget. The Government of Japan will discharge its obligation faithfully while seeking intensively, together with the ICC and other States Parties, for the most efficient ways to manage the work of the Court both in The Hague and in the field. From the viewpoint of human resources, Japan intends to send as many highly skilled Japanese as possible to the ICC to serve as its judges and staff. Currently, the Asian region including Japan seems to be seriously underrepresented in the ICC. My delegation expects the ICC to take all necessary measures to address this issue and hopes to see significant progress in the coming year.

Mr. President,

Japan hopes that the ICC will continue to work diligently toward the eradication of the culture of impunity and to further consolidate its status as the only permanent international criminal court in the world.

Thank you.