

**National Statement by Amb. Kawada,
Representative of the Government of Japan,
Ambassador in charge of Countering Terrorism and Organized
Crime,
General Debate in the 58th CND, 9th March, 2015**

(Introduction)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to attend the 58th Commission on Narcotics Drug and make a national statement on behalf of Japan.

Japan commits itself to implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. At the Commission this year, we are expected to actively engage in the preparations for the UNGASS 2016. The Government of Japan hopes that the Commission, as a central drug-related policymaking body within the UN system, shall lead strongly the preparatory process for the UNGASS.

(Demand Reduction)

Mr. Chairman,

Here I would like to introduce briefly our efforts to implement the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly on Demand Reduction and Supply Reduction.

The Government of Japan has been implementing the “Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy” since 1998, as a wide-ranged Demand Reduction policy. Based on this Strategy, Japan has been

taking measures for prevention and rehabilitation to reduce drug abuse. Giving high priority to the prevention of drug abuse by young people, we have strengthened advertising and education programs to raise awareness among them. As for the treatment and social rehabilitation of drug abusers, we have promoted effective intervention programs based on cognitive behavioral therapy.

(Supply Reduction)

Japanese society has recently faced the serious problem of NPS abuses which have caused critical health damages of the users and have also provoked frequent traffic accidents. Taking into account the seriousness of the problem, in July last year, the Government adopted “the Emergency Countermeasures on NPS” aiming at prompt prohibition of new substances, reinforced control of dealers, and strengthened legal framework. As a result, we have succeeded in dismantling almost all NPS shops in our country.

However, NPS has still been smuggled into our country. Even though our Government has achieved significant progress in countering the NPS problem, it is difficult to completely control NPS without international cooperation with other countries, especially with the countries which produce and export NPS. Japan would therefore appeal to those countries to take appropriate measures to control NPS, regardless of whether they have the abuse problem inside their country or not.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has concerns on the recent trend of spreading Methamphetamine over the world. Methamphetamine has become a

global threat, as it can be easily produced only with precursors, using simple manufacturing techniques. West African Criminal Organizations and Mexican Cartels have increasingly engaged in illicit production and trafficking of Methamphetamine. To cope with this serious situation, Japanese National Police Agency has been organizing every year the ADEC, “Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference”, with a view to sharing best practices on joint operation against ATS and NPS smuggling by criminal organizations.

Adding to that, Japan Coast Guard hosted, in Tokyo last November, the regional workshop called EMLEP, “Enhancing Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation Project”, which contributed to the enhanced cooperation among the maritime law enforcement authorities from East and Southeast Asian countries.

The Government of Japan is of the view that Alternative Development is one of the effective methods to reduce the supply of drugs. Japan has so far implemented projects in Myanmar and Afghanistan, considering that they are also important for human security, social development and women’s empowerment. In this regard, Japan welcomes the German initiative, as chair of G7 Roma Lion Group, to organize a side event on Alternative Development tomorrow, giving high priority to the social development approach.

(CND elections and Japan’s international contribution)

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Japan has presented its candidature for the elections of the CND members to be held next month. Being a member of the Commission since 1962, Japan has continuously

contributed to its works. Here I would like to recall you some of our recent contributions.

First, Japan has submitted a number of resolutions on NPS issues together with the UK and Australia, which lead to a creation of a UNODC Early Warning Advisory. At the last session, we organized a well-received side event on Methamphetamine together with the UNODC.

In addition to that, Japan has been realizing a number of projects on a world-wide basis, in cooperation with UNODC to which Japan is now a major donor. Japan has supported the Global SMART programme since it started in 2008 and we published , jointly with UNODC, “Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment 2014” report, in May last year in Tokyo.

Japan has provided around 5 million US dollars every year for the Alternative Development and capacity building projects in Afghanistan. In December last year, we organized, together with the Russian Government, a capacity-building seminar for Afghan policemen. We also pledged 1million USD for the UNODC project to fight against corruption which is closely linked with narcotics problem and the most imminent issue which the new Afghan Government has to tackle.

Speaking about West Africa, Japan has supported Container Control Project and West Africa Coast Guard Initiative since last year. And this year we will increase our support to realize 1.5 million USD package project covering Precursor regulation, Border Control, Countering Terrorist Financing and Human Trafficking.

The Government of Japan would like to continue to contribute to the global efforts for countering narcotics, as a member of CND, particularly in view of the UNGASS to be organized next year. We

promote further cooperation with other countries and other international organizations such as UNODC and INCB. We would solicit your kind support for our candidacy so that we can continue to be helpful in combatting against this awful problem.

(Illicit drug trafficking and Terrorist Financing)

Mr. Chairman,

Illicit drug trafficking, which is traditionally linked with money-laundering, is an important source for financing terrorist groups. At the beginning of this year, two Japanese citizens were murdered by ISIL in Syria. PM Abe strongly condemned this brutal act and at the same time reconfirmed his determination to fight against terrorism. Our Government has newly pledged 15.5 million USD for counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance in the Middle East and Africa on the occasion of Anti-extremist Summit held in Washington. At the FATF meeting held in Paris last month, the member countries have agreed to take further steps to control terrorist financing. Japan, as a founding member of FATF, will steadily implement relevant measures in order to cut off terrorism-related financial flows.

(Scheduling)

Mr. Chairman,

In June 2014, WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence submitted its recommendations for scheduling 12 substances under the Conventions. We generally welcome the recommendations based on medical and scientific research. However, it is imperative for CND to take into account the economic and social impact in

making a decision on these recommendations. Among the recommendations, Japan cannot accept the scheduling of GBL and 1,4-Butanediol under the Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. These two substances are very essential in the production of automobiles, electric and electronic appliances, medical products and others. The regulation of these substances will have serious influence on industrial activities of many countries and will affect the world economy. We would ask other member countries not to accept the scheduling of GBL and 1,4-Butanediol under the Convention in view of the seriousness of the problem.

(Closing)

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude my statement, I would like to reiterate that Japan highly appreciates the role of the Commission as the leading entity in the UN system for countering the world drug problem. We also value the works of UNODC in promoting international cooperation in this field. While it is necessary to keep a dialogue with UNODC on the improvement of its Finance and Governance, including the mechanism of Full Cost Recovery, Programme Support Cost and General Purpose Fund, we would like to further strengthen our cooperation with UNODC. The Government of Japan is disposed to continue and enhance its efforts to fight against narcotic problems, as a Member of the Commission, and together with UNODC, in looking forward to the UNGASS next year.

Thank you very much.

(end)