

**STATEMENT BY H.E. KYOJI KOMACHI  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE NETHERLANDS  
AT THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT  
23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

Mr. President,

It is a great privilege for me to speak here at the Assembly of States Parties on behalf of the Japanese Government, which is currently preparing its accession to the Rome Statute.

As is well known, Japan has been consistently supporting the International Criminal Court. Japan had worked hard to realize a permanent international tribunal in the field of criminal justice in the international community for a long time. Not only actively participated in the Rome Conference in 1998, it has also participated in all the ICC-related meetings held since the adoption of the Statute.

And now Japan is making last efforts toward the accession to the Rome Statute, so that Japan will be able to even more effectively support the Court as a State Party, with a view to eradicating and preventing the most serious crimes and thereby strengthening the rule of law in the international community.

Unfortunately Asia has not been immune from international serious crimes which are the target of this Court, and the accession to the Court of Japan from Asia will be quite meaningful for the international community.

Recently, Prime Minister Abe clearly stated at the Diet that the Government is accelerating its final efforts to prepare for accession to the Statute in the year 2007. We are now preparing a new draft legislation to comply with the obligations under the Statute and are at the final stage of the preparation. So should the Parliament approve the accession to the ICC Statute and the implementing legislation at the next ordinary Session of the Diet, the Government of Japan will be able to deposit its instrument of accession to the Secretary-General of the United Nations next year.

Mr. President,

Taking this opportunity let me draw the attention of State Parties to another issue which Japan must address before deciding on the accession. Article 117 of the Statute provides that “*The contributions of States Parties shall be assessed in accordance with an agreed scale of assessment based on the scale adopted by the United Nations for its regular budget and adjusted in accordance with the principles on which that scale is based.*” The ceiling on assessed contributions is one of the “principles” on which the UN scale is currently based and therefore it

is natural that the principle of ceiling of the UN scale should be applied to the scale for assessing contributions of States Parties to the ICC for the year 2007.

We are aware that the level of the ceiling is under debate at the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, and we do not have any intention at all to prejudge the outcome of the debate there. What we are seeking here is only the confirmation that, whatever the forthcoming UN ceiling is, as long as it remains in the principle applied to the UN budget, the UN ceiling rate shall be applied to the ICC scale.

Mr. President,

I would also like to attract your attention that Australia, Canada and New Zealand have kindly submitted to the ASP Secretariat a proposal to confirm this view in the resolution on the Programme Budget for the year 2007. Since the Japanese Government needs to convince its public that the level of our contribution will be appropriate and justifiable based on the rules of the UN, failure to do so would create obstacle for Japan's accession. From this point of view, valuable support from States Parties for the resolution is essential and very much appreciated.

Mr. President,

Finally, I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing all the discussions for the coming week on Agenda items which set the future directions of the Court's activities will bear fruitful outcomes. Japan will actively join the discussions as an Observer State and I do hope that Japan can similarly join the discussions at the 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly of States Parties to be held in the year 2008, as a new State Party.

I thank you.