

Statement by Japan
Plenary Meeting on Cooperation

Thank you, Ambassador Alabrune.

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to the co-facilitators, Ambassador François Alabrune and Ambassador Momar Gueye, for your initiative and facilitation through the Hague Working Group and this plenary session on the topic of cooperation.

While fruitful discussions are underway with a focus on voluntary agreements, in order to promote cooperation between the ICC and States Parties it is also essential to enhance the capacity of each State Party, including developing countries, within criminal justice systems. Today, aspiring to encourage cooperation set forth in the Rome Statute, I would like to briefly explain the initiatives of United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, known as UNAFEI.

UNAFEI is a regional training institute of the United Nations established in Tokyo in 1962. It offers training programs for enhancing criminal justice systems in developing countries, with all costs and personnel covered by the Government of Japan. To date, more than 6,300 practitioners from 142 countries and regions, including Asia, Africa, and Latin America, have participated in these UNAFEI training programs.

UNAFEI training programs also address matters related to the ICC. For example, at the program arranged in November this year, in which 30 representatives from 21 countries and regions participated, two officials from the ICC were invited to give lectures on the Court and financial investigations. Besides this, in January next year, the Director of UNAFEI is scheduled to visit the ICC and give lectures to the staff of the Court on judicial assistance and criminal justice systems of various countries, based on UNAFEI's experiences.

During President Hofmański's visit to Japan in October, the Agreement between the ICC and UNAFEI on Cooperation was signed between the two parties. UNAFEI will continue to join forces with the ICC. The Government of Japan will work to generate synergy between discussions at the ICC and the activities of UNAFEI, thereby facilitating partnership between the ICC and UNAFEI and enhancing cooperation set forth in the Rome Statute.