

Statement by Mr. Akihiro Okochi, Counsellor  
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations  
Agenda item 134: ICT, Umoja/ERP

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to **Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar**, Controller, **Mr. CHOI Soon-hong**, the Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) and **Mr. Collen Kelapile**, Chair of the ACABQ, for introducing their reports.

Mr. Chairman,

First, the Japanese delegation wishes to state that the Umoja/ERP is an essential element in the introduction of IPSAS to the UN Secretariat, which was agreed upon by the Member States in 2005, and that a significant amount of resources, exceeding some 120 million dollars, have already been invested on this project, we believe that it would be inadvisable to give up halfway through its implementation because it has met some difficulties. Our delegation strongly encourages the Secretariat to focus its attention and energies on this project so that Umoja/ERP can be implemented by the end of 2012. We would like to see the project completed by the end of 2012. As confirmed by the Secretary-General in his report, in this respect, our delegation feels that the high vacancy among the Umoja/ERP team as well as its subject-matter experts, if left unaddressed, will continue to impede the timely and cost-effective implementation of the project. For this reason, our delegation requests the Secretary-General and other senior

staff members of the Secretariat to pay sufficient attention to this issue and

Second, with regard to the ICT strategy; our delegation fully acknowledges the problems that stem from the fragmented state of ICT. We understand that significant benefits will be produced by addressing this issue through implementing greater coherence and coordination of the management of ICT activities. On the other hand, we also understand the situation that this Organization currently faces, now more than ever, the necessity of tighter budgetary discipline, as demonstrated by the Secretary-General's initiative in formulating a 2012-

2013 budget proposal. It is our view that the Organization has to address a daunting

task that further prioritization should be made among these ICT projects. In this

context, our delegation would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat not only of the benefits of these projects but also of the feasibility of the Secretariat successfully executing a large number of complex, management reform initiatives concurrently with the management of the Limoja/ERP project, as pointed out in the ACABQ report.

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation would like to assure you once again that we can participate actively in the consultations on this agenda item under your able guidance.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.