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Statement by Ms. Azusa Saito
Alternate Representative of Japan
on

Item 28 (a): Advancement of women

Item 28 (b): Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Third Committee

65th Session of the General Assembly, 10th Informal Meeting

New York

11 October 2010

Mr. Chairman,

The year 2010 is a milestone in the efforts of the international community to achieve gender equality and advance the empowerment of women, which the measures we take now and our renewed commitment to making progress. There have been a series of memorable events. The Beijing Platform for Action commemorated its fifteenth anniversary of the adoption and in July, the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was decided, consolidating the four existing gender-related entities. Furthermore, at the end of this month, we will commemorate the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. For us, Japan has continued its efforts to contribute actively to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment based on internationally agreed principles and instruments including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. On behalf of the Government of Japan, I therefore would like to take this opportunity to briefly outline for the committee the views Japan holds on this issue, the measures it has taken to date, and the directions it plans to move in the future.

Mr. Chairman...

Japan welcomes the continuing work of the Committee on the Status of Women of

the commemorative meeting to mark the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, which reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Japan also welcomes the establishment of UN Women. It is our sincere belief in the importance of mainstreaming gender perspectives in every area and phase of the work of the United Nations. We hope that with the entry of additional roles of learning, coordinating and operating the concept of the United Nations system's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, under the distinguished leadership of Ms. Michelle Bachelet, all gender-related activities of the United Nations will organically coordinate with each other and will be implemented in an effective and efficient manner. For its part, the Government of Japan intends to contribute actively in the activities of UN Women.

Mr. Chairman,

At the UN high-level meeting plenary held last month on the Millennium Development Goals, the international community reaffirmed the need to accelerate action and progress for all the Millennium Development Goals, including gender-related. At that meeting, our Prime Minister announced the "Kai Commitment," which consists of new health and education policies. In the field of health, the new policy places maternal, newborn and child health as one of the main pillars, and the government is committed to provide five billion of US dollars over five years beginning 2011. Through the new model called "EMBRACE," an acronym that stands for "Encourage, Motivate, Involve and Babies Regular access to Care," Japan, together with partner the international community, is engaged in saving the lives of 600,000 children annually through the provision of health services, including prenatal and antenatal care. In addition, these assistance Japan will continue its efforts in contributing to achieve the MDGs, where there has been delay in progress, as well as the MDG 5, which we firmly believe is related to the achievement of all the other MDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

As we approach the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, we hope that a comprehensive set of indicators to track implementation of the resolution will be developed and put to use at both the global and local levels. Japan is deeply aware of the importance to

strengthened women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace
reconstruction is one of our priority areas. One in the development assistance in post-
conflict countries, I would like to mention as an example a project supported by the
Government of Japan through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security,
"Integrated Programme for Empowering Communities to Rebuild
their Lives in North and East Sri Lanka" which conducts activities such as vocational
training for widows who have lost their husbands in conflict, in such a way that women
affected by conflict can take an active role in post-conflict society.

Mr. Chairman,

"While in one country, the Government of Japan has also been vigorously engaged
in a comprehensive effort to create a gender-equal society and promote women's
empowerment. That effort, as I mentioned earlier, is demonstrated by the announcement of a new "Action Plan
of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2009." Japan is determined to further
enhance the measures to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons and protect and
assist victims, such as enhancing victim assistance and informing victims of the
availability of the assistance, and combating sexual exploitation including of children.
Also, this year the Government of Japan will formulate the "Third Basic Plan for
Gender Equality," which will make efforts to promote the formation of a gender-equal
society through various measures such as the expansion of women's
participation in various fields, the promotion of women's career in each field and promoting measures
to secure employment, etc. Concerning the concluding observations of the Committee
on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on Japan's sixth periodic report to
the Committee, I wish to inform you that the Japanese government will address them
appropriately.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan this year is serving as chair of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
(APEC) and it has also set inter-very important meetings on the subject of gender
equality; the APEC Women Leaders' Network (WLN) and the Gender Focal Point
Network (GFPN), held last month, and the Women's Entrepreneurship Summit (WES),

held earlier this month. We believe that such a beginning is a step towards deepening the network among women leaders, in promoting the empowerment of women.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

As we observe this year as an important anniversary in our efforts to enhance the status of women around the world, I would like to reaffirm Japan's determination to work together with the international community, international organizations and civil society, both domestically and internationally, to advance the progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

Thank you.

held last year, the success of the program is a testament to the
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Thank you.