

**Japan's statement at the
Joint Session of the Reconvened 63rd session of the CND &
Reconvened 29th session of the CCPCJ (December 3, 2020)**

Co-Chairpersons,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I wish to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat of the UNODC for their hard work in making this Joint Session possible in the middle of the COVID-19 lockdown.

UNODC's dedicated work through its research, normative and technical assistance, is duly recognized by the international community. Japan highly appreciates its operation through its expertise and strong network of field offices. This year Japan contributed a total of \$26 million to UNODC in order to promote its activities upon the needs on the ground.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been causing regrettable suspensions and halts of UNODC's activities, posing challenges both in the field and in the head quarter. It is all the more important that UNODC continues its efforts to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability. By doing so UNODC can gain needed trust by Member States, and thereby can make flexible and timely responses to the urgent call by the international community.

These efforts are also indispensable in positioning and distinguishing UNODC in the context of the ongoing UN system reform. UNODC needs to continuously prove its capacity to meet the expectations of its Member States more effectively and to further explore the ways to fulfil its mandates.

In this context, we appreciate the initiative by Madame Executive Director to present a comprehensive strategy for the coming 5 years. UNODC's willingness to play a decisive role in achieving the SDGs through addressing its five thematic areas will surely capture international attention. UNODC's commitment to improve its efficiency through an innovation of organizational culture will no doubt enhance the trust among the stakeholders. Member states expect to be kept updated on the progress of this strategy and are ready to continue to cooperate towards its fulfilment.

The financial challenges UNODC has been facing remain unchanged. The downward trend in the general purpose fund requires a flexible approach to various challenges on the ground. In this regard, I wish to reiterate that it is critical for UNODC to explore creative programming and funding model, along with effective and flexible use of programme support costs (PSC).

Japan believes that the role of the FINGOV is indispensable for constructive dialogue, discussions and reporting on such issues. We appreciate UNODC's efforts devoted in communications with the Member States. We request UNODC to continue to provide us in a timely manner with sufficient and easily-understandable information on the technical complexity of the issues.

The first year for Madame Executive Director has become a challenging one due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan believes, however, UNODC has reasserted confidence through the strong leadership of Madame Waly. We wish to witness continuous and further development and improvement of UNODC. With this, Japan is ready to be engaged through annual financial contributions as well as through constructive dialogue.

I thank you for your kind attention.