

Thank you Madame Chairperson

As this is the first time for me take the floor, please allow me Madame Chairperson, to join the others in congratulating you on your election.. We assure you of our fullest and constructive cooperation in your noble endeavors and are confident that under your guidance the deliberations of this Session of the Working Group will lead to fruitful conclusion.

At present , the World's indigenous people face various problems, and they are in different situations. The Government of Japan thinks that the difficulties of the world's indigenous people should be solved from a long term perspective. In this respect, the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is meaningful.

The General Assembly recommended the Secretary General to establish, in the first quarter of 1995, a Voluntary Fund for the Decade in resolution no.GA 49/214. Since my Government thinks this fund is critically important for the implementation of the decade for indigenous people, we support this resolution. In January, we were ready to make a contribution to the fund, but we found out that this fund had not been established yet. We made inquiries to the Secretariat several times. We finally received the answer that this fund was established as a sub-account of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Population. As a result, Japan contributed 50,000 USD to this sub account. However, we would like to point out that the General Assembly originally recommended to establish an independent account, and not a sub account. We are concerned that the expenditure and income might be confounded between the account and the sub account. To establish a sub-account, instead of an account is not a desirable approach for the administration of the fund. Once again, we wish to call upon establishing an independent account for the Fund of the Indigenous Decade in compliance with the General Assembly's resolution.

Secondly, as to the board of trustees of the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, my government can't support the establishment of such a board.

As in the case of the Fund for the Victims of Torture, the board of trustees was established at the start of the fund. In this case, the beneficiary is the victims of torture and it is necessary to protect them from the concerned governments. Therefore the board of trustees, composed of independent individuals, is not only justified but indispensable. But as far as other funds are concerned , they have originally been governed by the Secretary General according to the respective resolutions of General Assembly, Commission on Human Rights, etc. Recently, the boards of trustees have been established all too easily. As a result , taking for example the Fund for the Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the board of trustees was established and the

members were appointed. However there were no financial resources to hold a meeting. Therefore in order to hold a meeting, further contribution has been requested.

In order to make best use of limited financial resources, focus should be placed on the programs and activities of the main purpose of the fund. To increase administration fees for the board of trustees is an unnecessary expenditure that would otherwise be used for something more useful. As a donor we should be concerned about the effective use of the fund. So we can't support the establishment of the board of trustees of this fund.

Thank you.