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**Statement by Ambassador Takahiro Shinyo
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
Enhancing multilateral cooperation
in preventing trafficking in persons
3 June 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

Japan continues to work to strengthen the controls it maintains on immigration and at the same time to enhance public awareness on this issue. It also is continuing its efforts to alert the people of Japan to the problems to which sexual exploitation is connected, especially trafficking in women and children.

If I may, I would like to say a word about two areas in which Japan is actively engaged in multilateral cooperation, namely, cooperation with sending countries and prevention of re-trafficking.

From our viewpoint, one of the causes of trafficking in persons is the serious economic situation of the victims. Japan therefore assists in the economic and social development of countries of origin, for example, through our Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots and Human Security program. We intend to continue to provide such assistance.

Japan also has promoted cooperation with sending countries through by dispatching an interministerial delegation to deal with this issue and by sharing information with governments, international organizations and NGOs in the countries concerned, in order to more effectively prevent, and ultimately end, trafficking in persons.

In 2003, the National Police Agency of Japan agreed to establish contact points in the foreign embassies, international organizations, and NGOs in Japan for the purpose of addressing the problem of trafficking. This system enables us to

communicate quickly with the relevant governments or organizations whenever necessary. In addition, we hold meetings of contact point persons every year and exchange views and information on specific cases.

As regards the efforts we are making to prevent re-trafficking, we provide victims with medical and psychological care, legal counseling, vocational training, and we assist them in pursuing an education. We believe these efforts will help victims avoid being re-trafficked.

Thank you.