

## Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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## Statement by Ambassador KIMURA Tetsuya Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations Organization of Work First Resumed Part of the 75th Session of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly 1 March 2021

Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by thanking you as Chair of the Fifth Committee, the bureau members, and all the Secretariat staff involved, for their valuable contributions and tireless work to make this Committee's work possible. I would like to congratulate Guinea for assuming the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, I would also like to congratulate Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong on his reappointment as Chair of the ACABQ, and trust that under his leadership we will continue to receive technical advice of high quality we need from the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chair,

During this relatively short session, the agenda items before us include important issues such as accountability, the jurisdictional setup of the United Nations Common System, air travel, and, above all, human resources management. We would like to point out that it has already been several years since this Committee last adopted a resolution on human resources management. In order to support the advancement of the Secretary-General's reform agenda and the achievement of the important goals set by the Member States, my delegation intends to continue to engage constructively with all partners on these items.

Regarding the jurisdictional setup of the Common System, the ILOAT's judgment on post adjustment in Geneva has a significant impact on the stability and coherence of the UN Common System. We recognize that the jurisdictional setup is one of the key factors to ensuring inter-agency fairness in the conditions of service for UN staff. The Secretary-General has proposed broad options to us. We will consider them carefully from the perspective of the stability of the UN common system and the judicial system for the conditions of service.

With respect to air travel, my delegation believes that creating a single threshold with the aim of establishing a more simplified and efficient travel process is worth discussing. We believe that cost-efficiency should be achieved by a new threshold. We also look forward to taking into consideration more frequent use of various working methods implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including virtual meetings and remote working, when discussing this agenda.

Finally, although it is not an official agenda item of this session, I would like to welcome the submission of the Pension Board's report on governance in response to the General Assembly's request. We recognize this as a positive signal of the Pension Board's commitment to governance, and we look forward to receiving concrete reform plans in the main session, which should include substantial changes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Board's performance.

## Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I assure all colleagues that my delegation will spare no effort in achieving a consensual outcome on all items in a timely manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.