

(Please check against delivery)

Statement of Japan

United Nations General Assembly, Sixth Committee, 78th SESSION,
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 79, Cluster II

Statement by Mr. NAGANO Shunsuke, Counsellor, Legal Advisor,
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

New York, 23 October - 1 November 2023

Thank you, Mr. / Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Delegation of Japan. I would like to address the topic of “Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea.”

Japan highly appreciates the Commission’s dedicated work on this pressing issue. This issue is of significant importance for us because Japan, as a maritime nation, depends on maritime transportation for its energy imports, and thus considers the stability of sea lanes critical.

Japan also attaches importance to the promotion of the international order based upon the rule of law in the area of maritime security and safety in order to realize the Free and Open Indo-Pacific. The work of the Commission is significant in that regard as well. We would like to emphasize that Japan is making utmost efforts in countering piracy including through dispatching Japan Self-Defense Forces’ escort ships to the ocean off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden.

On the ILC’s work in particular, Japan would like to express its support for the Commission’s approach of maintaining the legal norms on piracy established in UNCLOS, and then addressing the issues relating to the current definition in the commentary. As the Commission indicated, technological developments may require the international community to update the concept of piracy and armed robbery at sea, but the current provision of UNCLOS should be the starting point to preserve legal stability.

(Please check against delivery)

Japan believes that the clarity added in the commentary with regard to the definition of piracy and armed robbery at sea will help the international community understand what measures should be taken in order to prevent and repress those activities. For example, the Commission indicated in the report that preparatory acts, assistance, or unsuccessful attempts to commit piracy and armed robbery at sea are also punishable under the current definition. This clarification will help the international community to take a more comprehensive approach to counter those activities.

Taking into account the Commission's work, Japan hopes the international community will take more substantive measures against piracy and armed robbery at sea so as to enhance international cooperation toward the common end of prevention and repression of these acts, and this will lead to the realization of the rule of law at sea.

Thank you.

-end