

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

Permanent Mission of Japan

This year marks the twenty-sixth annual commemoration of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. In memory of the more than 800,000 lives lost during 100 days of the genocide, and in honour of the strength and courage of the survivors, the international community must be unified to recall the grievous crimes and recommit our unwavering resolve to prevent the reoccurrence of such atrocities.

In this spirit of international responsibility and solidarity, Japan joins the consensus to support the continuation of this International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda and would like to express our profound condolences to all victims—men, women and children—including those opposed to the atrocities. Our most sincere sympathies are with the families and the survivors of the genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

It was unfortunate that the annual day of reflection on 7 April could not be held in person at the United Nations Headquarters this year due to the current situation with COVID-19. We strongly hope that commemorative events will be reprised at UNHQ from 2021 onwards.

Having said that, unfortunately, we are concerned about the insufficient transparency in the negotiation process that formed the substance of this resolution and its PBI. Transparent and inclusive consultations are an integral part of ensuring the core values and principles of the UN General Assembly. While we entirely support the importance of the outreach programme, we nonetheless hope that this process will not set a precedent. Any additional costs or PBIs associated with resolutions should be discussed in the course of the consultations prior to their being placed under a silence procedure. An open and transparent negotiation process is the necessary basis for any future negotiations and lead to the best results.

Finally, Japan applauds the progress made by Rwandan people's unfaltering efforts in advancing the reconciliation process by promoting tolerance, human dignity and diversity. On this solemn occasion, we are firmly recommitted to assisting Rwanda's journey to realizing the human security of each individual by building peace, social coherence and resilience in which a repetition of such heinous crimes never happens again.