

UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption

State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. UTO Takashi

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

My name is UTO Takashi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is my great honor to have this opportunity to deliver my statement for the first United Nations General Assembly Special Session Against Corruption since the establishment of the UN.

I would like to congratulate the adoption of this Political Declaration as a great achievement led by the strong leadership of Peru and UAE as well as all the Member States to have gathered together virtually amidst the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis the international community faces.

Mr. Chairperson,

We, as one international community, have imminent responsibility to tackle corruption which hampers desired economic growth and sustainable development while also acknowledging the link between corruption and organized crimes. From this point of view, the adoption of the Political Declaration symbolizes the Member States' perseverance shown throughout the negotiation processes while having pictured the invigorating future direction for the international community, and it underscores critical significance in further bonding the international community towards prevention and abolition of corruption.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year, Japan hosted the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Kyoto Congress and the Kyoto Declaration was adopted as its outcome. The Declaration puts forward effective anti-corruption efforts by ensuring the use of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and appropriate measures to effectively disrupt the existing links between organized criminal groups and corruption, including by preventing and combating bribery and the laundering of proceeds of crime. The Kyoto Declaration also encompasses initiatives that resonate with the Political Declaration such as promoting the importance of the protection of reporting persons. Successfully leading the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration, Japan endeavors to place anti-corruption as a very important priority to be addressed within the international community.

Mr. Chairperson,

We will work on achieving the initiatives reiterated in the Political Declaration including effective measures to criminalize corruption, as well as to strengthen the rule of law, international cooperation, technical assistance and information exchange, and anti-corruption efforts towards achieving SDGs. Furthermore, we firmly believe that advancing the international community's efforts on anti-corruption measures bound by a collective pledge to effectively fulfill our existing obligations and commitments will serve as a foundation for materializing effective anti-corruption.

Japan will continue to engage in promoting the effective implementation of the existing international conventions such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention as well as contributing to the global efforts against corruption. With the adoption of this Political Declaration, I look forward to the ongoing discussions surrounding anti-corruption to be further enhanced within the international community.

Thank you for your attention.