

SECTION 4

GLOBAL PROBLEMS

(a) Overview

Japan is a leading member of the international community, and in today's globalized and changing world, Japan needs to work actively toward resolving global problems, in order to realize a stable and prosperous international community, which provides the foundation of the country's safety and prosperity.

During 2001, Japan continued to strive positively to reinforce human rights and democracy in the international community, in an effort to uphold and further develop the international order based on the values of respecting fundamental human rights and democracy, which are Japan's own ideals. Japan has also been actively involved in initiatives to protect and promote the rights of children, an issue whose importance has been increasingly recognized in recent years. One example of that effort is the large international conference held in Japan. At the same time, Japan, working in cooperation with the international community, continued steadily addressing global environmental problems, which may threaten the existence of humanity, as well as international organized crime and other transnational problems that have become increasingly serious. Japan also remained actively engaged in other diverse global fields such as promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and international cooperation in science and technology, together with the international organizations and countries concerned. The government of Japan will continue working positively toward the resolution of these types of global problems in order to achieve greater stability and prosperity worldwide.

A. Human Rights

(a) The United Nations (UN) Commission on Human Rights

During the 57th Session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Human Rights, which met in Geneva in March and April, the Commission held deliberations on human rights issues, including the human rights situation in each country, and adopted more than 100 resolutions and decisions. The

session was marked by an overtone of confrontation between the Western countries and the developing countries that was even stronger than it has been in the past, and Japan contributed constructively to the commission's deliberations and continued to serve as a bridge between the countries of Asia and Africa and the other regions based on its position that human rights are universal values in the international community. As in past years, Japan served as the main sponsor of a resolution on the human rights situation in Cambodia, and Japan played an active role by drafting this resolution aimed at improving the human rights situation in that country. Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Kaori Maruya delivered a speech to the commission explaining Japan's approach to human rights issues.

The United Nations' technical cooperation and other activities in the human rights field are making a major contribution to each country's efforts to improve the human rights situation. Japan supports the activities of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and other UN organizations, and Japan has contributed approximately US\$800,000 to various funds administered by the UNHCHR, including the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Service and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights.

(b) The United Nations World Conference against Racism

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 through September 8. While the conference became entangled in complications regarding the Middle East problem and apologies and reparations for slavery, a declaration and an action plan were adopted by consensus on the final day. The Japanese government delegation was led by Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Maruya, and about 100 representatives of Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also attended.

(c) Examinations of Government Reports Based on Human Rights Treaties

The various human rights treaties that Japan has concluded obligate the governments of the state parties to submit periodic reports to committees established under the treaties. In March, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination examined the initial and second periodic reports submitted (in June 1999) by the government of Japan on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and in August the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights examined the second periodic report submitted (in August 1998) by the government of Japan on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Both of these committees issued concluding observations based on their examinations.

(d) Human Rights Dialogue

In addition to activities aimed at the protection and promotion of human rights through the United Nations and other international fora, it is also important to foster mutual understanding through bilateral dialogues. Japan has been exchanging opinions concerning human rights issues with other countries, taking advantage of the opportunities for bilateral discussions on the occasions of mutual visits among government leaders.

B. Global Environmental Problems

(a) Efforts by the International Community

In recent years, global warming (see Chapter I, F-4), the destruction of the ozone layer, and other global environmental problems have emerged as potential threats to the continued existence of all humanity. Such issues cannot be effectively addressed by each country acting alone; a joint approach by the international community is required. Moreover, the approach to global environmental issues is very closely related with economic issues, and therefore it is by no means easy for countries and regions with different economic conditions and developmental stages to coordinate their efforts, and many environmental issues create sharp divergences between developed and developing countries, such as differentiating the responsibilities between developing and developed countries. Meanwhile, the advancement of environmental diplomacy to address increasingly diverse environmental problems has increased the number of voices calling for new approaches such as emphasizing the life and health of individual human beings from the perspective of human security.

At the 1992 Earth Summit,²¹ participants discussed policies for advancing sustainable development²² and adopted Agenda 21 as a comprehensive international action plan. Subsequently, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has met each year to monitor and review the state of implementation of Agenda 21. The CSD 10 meeting held in May 2001, which acted as the Preparatory Committee for the Johannesburg Summit (the World Summit on Sustainable Development [WSSD]),²³ agreed that the WSSD should reflect the results of the preparatory works taking place

21. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED; commonly known as the "Earth Summit") was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

22. Sustainable development is the central concept raised by the World Commission on Environment and Development in their 1987 report "Our Common Future."

23. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) is scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 26 through September 4, 2002. A Preparatory Committee meeting at the ministerial level (PrepCom4) is scheduled to take place in Indonesia from May 27 through June 7, 2002.

in regions across the globe. At the High-Level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) that was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in November 2001, participants adopted a Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, which summarized the key issues and approaches. Meanwhile, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) compiled a report on the approach to sustainable development, emphasizing the economic, environmental, and social policy aspects, and recommending the use of the market mechanism and of science and technology, and the effective management of natural resources. The WSSD will be held in August 2002, which will mark the 10th anniversary of the Earth Summit, and the WSSD discussions are expected to focus on a comprehensive review of Agenda 21 and on new issues that have emerged over the past decade. WSSD is expected to strengthen the political drive to address environmental issues in the 21st century, and to indicate the future direction of international policy toward resolving environmental problems.

The Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance met five times between April 2001 and February 2002 to address the governance issue regarding how the international community should address global environmental problems, and it deliberated on the role of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, measures to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other issues.

As part of the international effort to address Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, a treaty prohibiting and restricting the production, use, and import and export of DDT, PCBs,²⁴ dioxins, and other POPs, was adopted in May at the diplomatic conference in Stockholm.

Meanwhile, the first session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF1) was held in June to discuss sustainable forest management and related issues. To strengthen regional measures to combat the acid rain problem, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia began full-scale operations in 2001.

(b) Japan's Approach

Amid this progress in international initiatives, Japan continues to view global environmental problems as one of the country's most important diplomatic issues, and Japan is engaged in the following types of cooperation.

First, Japan contributes to the formulation and implementation of treaties and other international commitments. To help preserve the ozone layer, Japan is the second largest contributor, after the United States, to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which was established to assist developing countries in implementing ozone layer

24. DDT is an abbreviation for dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, and PCB is an abbreviation for polychlorinated biphenyl.

protection measures, and Japan donates approximately US\$33 million to the Fund each year. During FY 2001, Japan also donated a total of US\$1 million for the implementation and promotion of various other multilateral environmental treaties.

Second, Japan provides substantial environment-related assistance to developing countries. The simultaneous pursuit of environmental preservation and economic development is one of the key principles of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter, and environmental cooperation is considered a top-priority issue under Japan's ODA policies. Additionally, Japan continues to actively address environment-related assistance to developing countries under the Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance (formulated in August 1999) by providing cooperation in such diverse fields as air pollution and the preservation of the natural environment in accordance with "Initiatives for Sustainable Development toward the 21st Century" (ISD). At the resumed Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 6 bis), Japan stressed that it is providing global warming countermeasures assistance to developing countries based on the Kyoto Initiative, and those efforts were welcomed by other countries.

Third, Japan is working to promote bilateral environmental policy consultations and other bilateral environmental dialogue. At the August meeting of the Japan–Australia Environment Policy Talks, and the December meetings of the Japanese–Korean Joint Committee on Environmental Cooperation and of the Japanese–Russian Joint Committee on Environmental Conservation, the participants exchanged opinions regarding climate change, the WSSD, and other activities.

Fourth, Japan emphasizes cooperation with environment-related international organizations. Japan plays a substantial role as a major donor to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Japan continues to support the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre, which was founded at the invitation of the Japanese government and maintains offices in Osaka and Shiga Prefectures; specifically, Japan subsidizes the expenses for Centre projects concerning environmental problems in large cities and the management of freshwater bodies and their catchment areas.

C. Transnational Organized Crime, Illegal Drugs, and Piracy

(a) Transnational Organized Crime

As a result of the globalization of the economy, the innovations in high-technology equipment, the greater movement of people, and other ongoing developments in contemporary society, transnational organized crime has become a major problem for the international

community. This has led to strong demands for international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime, and during 2001 the United Nations (UN), the G8, and other organizations continued working vigorously to address the problem.

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its three related protocols (on the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms) were drafted through negotiations at the United Nations, and the UN General Assembly adopted the convention and its two protocols (except for the protocol on firearms) in November 2000. Japan signed the convention at the High-level Political Signing Conference held in Palermo, Italy, in December. The protocol on firearms was adopted by the UN General Assembly in May 2001. Japan served as the chair of the G8 coordination group for the negotiations on the convention and its protocols, donated funds to the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention, which served as the secretariat for the negotiations, and otherwise played a major role in moving the negotiations forward.

During the year, the international community also agreed to initiate negotiations on a UN Convention against Corruption beginning in 2002, based on the recognition that corruption and bribery are major impediments to development and democracy. The framework for these negotiations was deliberated.

In an effort to promote international cooperation against transnational organized crime in the Asian region following the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly sponsored the Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Conference against Transnational Organized Crime, which was held in Tokyo in January 2001. That conference was attended by approximately 230 high-ranking law enforcement officials and others from more than 30 countries and territories, primarily in the Asian region, and international organizations. In addition to the plenary sessions, meaningful exchanges of opinions took place at four separate sessions focusing on firearms, drug control, organized crime countermeasures, and countermeasures against high-tech crime.

The G8 Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime (the "Lyon Group") has been deliberating diverse measures to combat transnational organized crime ever since it was founded in 1995. The Lyon Group has contributed to deliberations at the G8 Summits and made a major contribution to the negotiations on the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Recently, judicial cooperation, law enforcement, and high-tech crime have been discussed as new issues; and in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the United States, the Lyon Group is expected to play a new role in effectively supporting anti-terrorism efforts based on its accumulated knowledge and experience in transnational organized crime countermeasures.

The second G8 Government-Private Sector High-Level Meeting on High-Tech Crime was held in May 2001 in Tokyo based on the recognition, as expressed in the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit Communiqué, that cooperation between government and the private sector is absolutely

essential to the fight against high-tech crime. The Tokyo meeting was attended by high-level experts from the public and private sectors of the G8 member countries. The Japanese delegation was led by Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shigeo Uetake, and it included government experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the National Police Agency; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; and the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications; also in attendance were diverse private-sector experts from telecommunications carriers, including Internet service providers, information equipment manufacturers, and universities. The participants held active discussions focused on such fields as the retention and preservation of telecommunications data, and the threat evaluation and prevention of high-tech crimes.

(b) Illegal Drugs

The Fourth International Drug Control Summit was held in Bolivia in February 2001. At the conference, 173 parliamentarians and drug control officials from 27 countries, mostly from Europe and the Americas, discussed the development of alternative crops and other drug-related issues. The Japanese delegation, which included House of Councillors Member Tomoko Sasaki and House of Representatives Member Yasuyuki Eda, expressed the willingness to hold the Fifth International Drug Control Summit in Japan.

Following the September terrorist attacks in the United States, many countries expressed their concern at the United Nations and other fora regarding the link between the illegal drug problem and terrorism, especially regarding the resumption of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and the increase in illegal drug transactions with nearby countries. In 2001, Japan donated US\$3.38 million to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), and this included US\$600,000 to fund UNDCP projects to reinforce drug control in Iran and Tajikistan, the two countries that have become the primary conduits for the flow of Afghan opium poppies and opium to other countries. Additionally, Japan provided US\$700,000 to support a UNDCP project in Myanmar's primary opium poppy cultivation region by earmarking a part of its contribution to the UNDCP and by authorizing the application of the Trust Fund for Human Security.

(c) Piracy

In recent years, the number of reported incidents of piracy has been rising at an alarming rate, having more than tripled from 132 in 1995²⁵ to 471

25. The growing awareness of the piracy problem may also be one factor behind the rise in the number of reported piracy incidents, as incidents that would not have been reported in the past are now more likely to be reported.

in 2000.²⁶ That increase has been particularly conspicuous on the seas of Southeast Asia. In fact, more than half of all incidents reported during 2000 (257 out of 471 incidents) occurred in the Southeast Asian region.²⁷ The frequent occurrence of piracy in Southeast Asia and the increasing severity of the damages suffered pose a major threat not only to Japan, which depends on the maritime transport of oil and other energy sources through Southeast Asia, but to the order, stability, and economic development of the entire Asian region.

In working toward resolving the increasingly serious piracy problem, Japan is actively participating in the international cooperation efforts being implemented under the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the ASEAN+3 (Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and other frameworks. Japan is also positively implementing international cooperation in combating piracy in the Southeast Asian region based on the "Asia Anti-Piracy Challenges 2000" statement and the "Model Action Plan," which were adopted at the Regional Conference on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in April 2000. Both of those stipulate concrete measures for regional anti-piracy cooperation.

In other efforts to strengthen anti-piracy cooperation in Southeast Asia, Japan Coast Guard patrol vessels visited Singapore in August, the Philippines in October, and Thailand in December, patrolled international waters in the Southeast Asian area, and exchanged opinions and conducted combined exercises with coast guard authorities in all three countries. Additionally, to enhance the enforcement capabilities of coast guard personnel in the concerned nations, the Japan Coast Guard Academy began accepting exchange students in April 2001 and held a maritime law enforcement seminar in October. In March 2001, a joint study group was launched to promote and strengthen Japanese shipping companies' self-defense measures in cooperation with Indonesia, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), and other concerned parties. Meanwhile, efforts to upgrade the international emergency information liaison system are being advanced through the preparation and distribution of emergency notification lists for the coastal states.

In addition to those specific cooperation efforts, the Japanese government hosted the Asia Cooperation Conference on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Tokyo in October 2001. The conference looked at cooperative efforts that could be pursued to combat piracy in the Asian region and was attended by government officials, ship owner association representatives, private-sector researchers, and representatives of the IMO and IMB from 17 countries and regions including ASEAN, China, and the Republic of Korea. The participants all recognized that a regional cooperation agreement should be considered to promote countermeasures against piracy, and that a working group of experts should be established to examine the concrete content of such an agreement. Based on those findings, at

26, 27. According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Reports on Acts of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships 2000 Annual Report.

the November ASEAN+3 Summit in Brunei, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi proposed the convening of a working group of government experts to examine the drafting of an anti-piracy regional cooperation agreement at the government level, and that proposal was approved by all the summit nations.

The nations of Asia hold Japan's diverse anti-piracy efforts in high regard, and Japan will continue to strengthen its ties and cooperation with concerned countries, and to actively provide those countries with the technical and human resources development assistance they require to eliminate piracy and armed robbery against ships.

D. Children

(a) The Second World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

With the goal of promoting an international framework for eliminating child prostitution, child pornography, and other commercial sexual exploitation of children, the Second World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children²⁸ was held December 17 through December 20, 2001, in Yokohama. Following the opening remarks by Minister for Foreign Affairs Makiko Tanaka, the keynote address was delivered by Minister of Justice Mayumi Moriyama.

At the plenary sessions, speeches were delivered by representatives of each country and international organization. The congress also featured three panel discussions, 107 workshops by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others, and a "Children and Youth Roundtable." The congress was attended by a total of 3,050 participants, including government representatives from 136 countries (52 at the ministerial level), representatives from 148 foreign and 135 Japanese NGOs and 23 international organizations, and 90 children and youths from Japan and abroad. The participants engaged in an active debate and a lively exchange of information and opinions concerning the six main themes of the congress: Child Pornography; Prevention, Protection, and Recovery of Children from Sexual Exploitation; Trafficking in Children; Role and Involvement of the Private Sector; Legislation and Law Enforcement; and Profile of the Sex Exploiter.

On the final day, the congress adopted, by consensus, the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001, which calls for further efforts to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and the children and youths who participated in the congress issued the Final Appeal of Children and Young People.

28. The Second World Congress was co-sponsored by the government of Japan, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the international NGO ECPAT International, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The congress was the first large international conference on children in the 21st century, and as such it attracted a high level of interest both within Japan and throughout the world, being seen as an important opportunity to further promote the international community's efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation, and to secure the dignity and happiness of children, upon whose shoulders the future of humanity rests. Given the nature of its framework—with co-sponsorship by the government of Japan, an international organization, and two NGOs—the congress gained the active and voluntary participation of international organizations and of Japanese and foreign NGOs. Moreover, the Congress afforded an opportunity to advance cooperation and network-building among all the concerned parties since it drew together at a single venue representatives from government, international organizations, and NGOs.

(b) Efforts to Protect and Promote Children's Rights

- *Ratification of the ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour*

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been working to ban child labor ever since it was founded in 1919. Against a backdrop of growing international concern regarding children's rights in recent years, the ILO unanimously adopted the ILO Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182) at the conference in 1999. The convention defines the term "child" as all individuals under 18 years of age, prohibits the worst forms of child labor, including forced labor, prostitution, and drug trafficking, and stipulates the specific measures required to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Japan ratified the convention on June 18, 2001. In fact, in just three years since its adoption, over 100 of the 175 ILO member countries have already ratified the convention, demonstrating the high level of interest in each country in abolishing child labor. With its ratification, Japan intends to further promote efforts by the international community to completely eliminate child labor.

- *The Second Report of Japan on the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Japan is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Japan is striving to protect and promote children's rights. In November 2001, the government of Japan submitted its second periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the United Nations, in accordance with the convention's stipulations. This report was prepared by holding meetings with concerned NGOs to listen to their opinions and with other

cooperation from civil society, and it describes the actual conditions of the convention's implementation in Japan.

- *Drafting of Japan's Action Plan to Counter the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*

As a follow-up to the 1996 Stockholm World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Japan prepared a domestic action plan in February 2001 to counter the commercial sexual exploitation of children; the plan stipulates prevention and enforcement measures as well as an approach to fostering the recovery of victims.

E. International Cooperation for the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and Japan's Science and Technology Cooperation

(a) Strengthening and Improving the Efficiency of International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards

In order to ensure that nuclear materials intended for peaceful purposes are not diverted to military use, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has established a safeguards system, which includes verification inspections. In 1997, the IAEA adopted a model additional protocol to strengthen its existing safeguards. As of October 2001, 57 countries had signed additional protocols with the IAEA, and those have been ratified by 22 countries including Japan.

In June 2001, Japan co-sponsored the International Symposium on the Further Reinforcement of IAEA Safeguards in the Asia-Pacific Region, inviting government officials responsible for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in 15 Asia-Pacific countries to attend. The symposium participants agreed that nuclear non-proliferation efforts are essential for the stability of the Asia-Pacific region, and that the IAEA safeguards need to be reinforced to uphold the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Participants also stated that conferences including this symposium are effective opportunities for sharing positions with many countries and regions regarding the necessity of ratifying additional protocols to strengthen the IAEA safeguards, and the attendees unanimously agreed that similar conferences should be held in other regions.

The IAEA is currently considering holding similar conferences in Central Asia and Africa, and Japan will continue to support such efforts, as a country that views nuclear non-proliferation as a national virtue.

(b) International Science and Technology Cooperation

Science and technology is a fundamental factor underpinning national security and economic and industrial activities. Japan is advancing a wide variety of initiatives in terms of both “diplomacy for science and technology” (promoting international science and technology cooperation via diplomacy) and “science and technology for diplomacy” (actively using science and technology, which represents a precious national asset, in the diplomatic context). International cooperation is essential for the implementation of large projects that cannot be pursued by individual countries acting alone. For example, in the space cooperation field, Japan is working to complete the International Space Station by 2006, together with the U.S., Canada, European countries, and Russia. Astronauts have been residing at the International Space Station since December 2000, and the construction of the Japanese Experiment Module will begin in 2004. Other ongoing joint international science and technology projects include the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project to verify the feasibility of nuclear fusion energy, which is expected to become a permanent energy source for humanity, as well as the ARGO global array of profiling floats for ocean observation and the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) scientific research initiative.

Japan’s “diplomacy for science and technology” is also being used to address problems that cannot be resolved by individual countries acting alone. For example, in the life sciences field, while the recent dramatic advances in biotechnology are expected to greatly advance the field of medicine, they also pose grave problems regarding the dignity of humanity as it pertains to human cloning. Japan has been urging the international community to adopt a balanced approach—between the development of science and technology on the one hand, and bioethics and the respect of human rights on the other—and to do so through the United Nations, the G8, and other fora.

Additionally, Japan holds periodic meetings such as bilateral joint committee meetings with a number of countries in order to advance science and technology by exchanging information on science and technology policies and by discussing specific cooperative research projects; so far, Japan has concluded science and technology cooperation agreements with about 30 countries. During 2001, such meetings were held with Australia, Russia, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Finland, and others. Japan is also promoting multilateral science and technology cooperation through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and many other international frameworks.

Meanwhile Japan is pursuing its “science and technology for diplomacy” by utilizing its scientific and technological capabilities in such diplomatic fields as disarmament, Official Development Assistance (ODA), the global environment, humanitarian assistance, and national security. As one example, the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) is

applying science and technology for disarmament and non-proliferation. The ISTC—which was established in 1994 in Moscow by Japan, the U.S., the EU, and Russia—supports the provision of civilian employment for researchers and technical personnel from the former republics of the Soviet Union whose previous work involved weapons of mass destruction. In a statement adopted at the ISTC Governing Board meeting held in October 2001, following the terrorist attacks in the United States, the ISTC parties affirmed their commitment to the ISTC's non-proliferation goals.