

Statement by Mr. AKAHORI Takeshi, Ambassador for Cyber Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, on the occasion of the virtual informal meeting of the OEWG on ICTs

November 18, 2020

**【capacity-building】**

There is a saying in Japan: “Helping others is helping oneself.” It means that the result of a good deed on your part will come back and benefit you as well.

This saying holds true for international relations. International cooperation benefits both sides. In the ICT context, capacity building cooperation reduces gaps and contributes to increased cybersecurity for all.

The draft report in front of us reflects the results of the discussions that have taken place. Apart from one minor comment I will make later, Japan supports the content relevant to capacity-building.

Japan particularly supports language in paragraph 53. Indeed, capacity-building plays an important enabling function for promoting adherence to international law and implementation of norms of responsible state behavior and confidence-building measures.

Regarding the second question from the Chair, Japan supports the principles of partnership, people and process. Japan supports the description for each of the three principles. Partnership and ownership are important principles adopted by Japan in its overall international cooperation activities. Emphasis on people is consistent with Japan’s stress on achieving “human security.”

Japan particularly supports language on the demand-driven nature of CBMs, on recognition of national ownership, on non-discriminatory implementation taking into account human rights and fundamental freedoms, on political neutrality and transparency, and on the need for clarity of purpose and focus on results.

The principle of ownership relates to the first question by the chair. In my view, the recipient country is the best placed to correctly identify the demand, needs, and priorities and can be the best coordinator.

Japan has one comment on para 59, which refers to the benefit of the “establishment” of national coordination bodies to assess and coordinate effective programs. Japan proposes to strike out the word "establishing" and instead use the word "enhancing" because each country probably will

conduct assessments and coordination making use of existing institutions, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Economic Cooperation.

Our delegation has had the opportunity to explain Japan's efforts and initiatives for cyber capacity building. Japan intends to continue capacity building initiatives based on the principles of partnership and ownership and in a more coordinated manner, with an increased focus on meaningful results.

I thank you, Chair.