

Statement by Japan on the ISU
April, 2013 CCM Intersessional Meeting

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. Coordinator,

On behalf of the delegation of Japan I would like to begin by reiterating my sincere appreciation to the Presidency for his efforts in leading the process to establish an ISU for the Convention, including by holding numerous consultations with States Parties and with the GICHD with regard to the budgetary framework and organization. We highly appreciate the President and his team for further downsizing the core costs, which should benefit all states parties regardless of funding model, and for the preparation of the Food for Thought Paper distributed yesterday.

I would like to speak with regard to the third option for the ISU on this Food for Thought Paper, since we have been considering possibilities based on the previous framework presented in February.

We believe that the ISU is a necessary institution to assist States Parties in steadily fulfilling their obligations under the Convention; it is desirable that a continuous and stable funding model be chosen. We also thank Switzerland for the generous offer of voluntary contributions.

Japan also welcomes the fact that the CCM now has a membership of over 80 State Parties. However, if any single State Party is obliged to pay more than 20% of the ISU's core budget, in our view that would be neither fair nor an equitable distribution of financial responsibilities.

I would like to point out that the current estimate indicates that our country alone will be obliged to pay more than 21% of the core costs, which exceeds our percentage on the UN scale of assessments for the regular budget by more than 10%. It should be noted that this percentage exceeds our 8.7% share of world Gross National Income (GNI), which falls short of our 10.8% assessment on the U.N. scale. With record-high levels of government debt and fiscal austerity required for the recovery from the earthquake in 2011, additional

obligatory contributions at such high rates will face severe scrutiny at home.

We would like to stress that, even in the United Nations—where all the developed countries in the world are members—there *is* a mechanism to avoid putting an excessive burden on any one country, exemplified by the ceiling of 22% for the United States. We regard this as an important and realistic consideration that could be applied to the CCM, in order to avoid putting an unfair burden on any single country.

Accordingly, Japan continues to request the President to reconsider the introduction of a contribution ceiling to any hybrid model proposal. The ceiling, for example, could be set at 15%, which is still the highest amongst our peers. This will be a condition for our consideration of the possibility of supporting a hybrid model. If a ceiling is absent from the hybrid model, Japan would prefer to have a voluntary contribution system.

In the spirit of friendship between States Parties of the CCM, if our situation would be given kind consideration, we would be extremely grateful.

I thank you Mr. President.