



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

866 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017 Phone: (212) 223-4300 · www.un.int/japan/

(Please check against delivery)

Statement of Ambassador Takahiro Shinyo
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
Agenda item 65

Third Committee
Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly

6 November 2006
New York

Mr. Chairman,

Towards the end of the last century, we witnessed several developments in combating racism and racial discrimination such as the abolition of apartheid. However, on the other hand, new phenomena, including globalization, the growing number of migrant workers and technological advances, have created new situations which may disseminate racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. Furthermore, in conflict situations, racism and racial discrimination have become key factors in triggering genocide.

As stipulated in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, discrimination between human beings on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin is an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and is capable of disturbing peace and security among peoples and the harmony of persons living within the same State. In this context, we would like to stress the importance of education in preventing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Racists are not born but created from ignorance and prejudice. We have to confront an ideology of hatred, arrogance and exclusion, which are the seedbed of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. It is very important for young people to learn how to live together with people from different cultures, within or outside their country, and co-exist with people of other social classes. School curricula should foster an understanding among younger generations of history and culture not only of own country, but also of other countries so that they have respect for the dignity and worth of each human.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan is determined to eliminate self-righteous nationalism, promote international cooperation, and thereby advance the principles of peace and democracy throughout the world. For this purpose, we consider it is important to promote mutual understanding of historical facts and recognition of regional history as well as to promote friendly and cooperative relations with neighbouring countries. Toward this direction, scholars in Japan and the Republic of Korea have conducted joint research of history from ancient to modern times. Recently, during the visit to China by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, both Japan and China agreed to start joint research of regional history by scholars of both countries. The Prime Minister also agreed with the President of the Republic of Korea on an early launch of the second round of the Japan-ROK joint history research. We hope these joint efforts will lead to mutual understanding of each other's history, friendly and cooperative relations and peaceful co-existence as well as a society without hatred, prejudice and ignorance.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Japan invited the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in July of last year. My Government thanks Mr. Doudou Diène for preparing detailed reports to the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly. However, we have found some of his statements were neither accurate nor relevant or were beyond his mandate. The Government of Japan has already submitted comments on some of the statements made in his report to the Commission on Human Rights. The Government of Japan wishes that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur is exercised properly and limited to what it should be.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman,

In Japan, both national and local government bodies have taken measures against discrimination. Taking this opportunity, the Government of Japan wishes to reiterate its commitment to continuously making efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other intolerance in our country.

We would like to work to achieve a society in which each person is respected as an individual. Through cooperation among States, international organizations and all members of civil society, we can make this goal a reality.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.