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Statement of the Government of Japan

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to the United Nations

On Agenda Items 76(a) “Oceans and the Law of the Sea” and

76(b) “Sustainable Fisheries”

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Mr. President,

Let me first join other delegates in expressing gratitude to the Facilitators of the two draft resolutions, Ambassador Henrique Valle of Brazil and Ms. Holly Koehler of the United States, for their tremendous work.

I also wish to thank all Member States which have worked together during informal consultations on the draft resolutions in a spirit of cooperation. My appreciation also goes to the Secretariat for its assistance.

Japan is pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution A/65/L.20 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

Japan is a maritime State surrounded by sea, dependent for nearly all imports of energy resources, including oil and minerals, on maritime transport. As an island country with few natural resources, Japan considers marine living resources and other natural resources lying on the continental shelves as well as on the deep sea-bed under its surrounding waters as crucial from an economic perspective. Consequently, we have a strong interest in these agenda items and have been taking active part in the discussions on the draft resolutions.

Mr. President,

1. Oceans and the Law of the Sea

(1) Maritime safety and security

It is a matter of continuing concern for Japan that piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden is now expanding to areas along the eastern African coast and in the Indian Ocean. Japan takes the view that a multifaceted approach, which includes assistance for maritime enforcement capacity-building and other medium-to-long term efforts in addition to operations by naval vessels, must be pursued in order to suppress piracy.

Japan has dispatched two destroyers and two P-3C patrol aircraft to monitor the Gulf of Aden and the area off the Coast of Somalia. Moreover, Japan enacted in June 2009 the "Anti-Piracy Measures Law", to ensure domestic implementation of the provisions on piracy stipulated in UNCLOS.

As part of its efforts to assist maritime enforcement capacity development of the coastal countries, Japan has contributed USD 13.6 million to the IMO Djibouti Code Trust Fund, a multi-donor trust fund initiated by Japan. In addition, Japan has disbursed USD 500,000 to the International Trust Fund for the purpose of prosecuting suspected pirates. It is

my great pleasure to announce as well that additional contributions of USD 1 million to each of these Trust Funds were approved recently by the National Diet.

Japan also continues to play a leading role through its cooperation in the efforts based on the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

Mr. President,

(2) The CLCS and Japan's submission

Regarding the activities of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), Japan fully recognizes the need for improving the situation with regard to the workload of the CLCS, given the large number of submissions made by coastal States. As announced at the 20th Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS held last June, Japan this year contributed approximately USD 280,000 to the Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying the costs of participation in the meetings of the Commission for CLCS members from developing States.

Japan, as a State Party to the Convention, will cooperate and work together with other States Parties in the process of the Informal Working Group on addressing the workload issue of the CLCS by participating actively in the efforts to find practical and effective solutions to the issue.

Mr. President,

(3) ITLOS

As regards the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), Japan highly appreciates the important role played by the Tribunal in the peaceful settlement of disputes as well as the maintenance and development of the rule of the law of the sea. The increasing number of applications instituting proceedings before the Tribunal, in particular in the course of the last year, attests to the fact that the said role and authority of ITLOS is widely recognized in the international community. Japan welcomes the expansion of the Tribunal's activities and is determined to contribute to the valuable work of ITLOS under the leadership of President Jesus by providing full support in that regard.

(4) Conservation of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

Turning to the conservation of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, the promotion of global conservation of biodiversity is becoming increasingly more important.

In this context, Japan recognizes the role of the General Assembly for facilitating the protection of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction and will continue to participate in a constructive way in the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, taking duly into account the decisions adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan in October.

Mr. President,

2. Sustainable fisheries

As a responsible fishing State and a State Party to UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), Japan is dedicated to addressing the promotion of sustainable use through the conservation and management of living marine resources and the appropriate conservation of the marine ecosystem, in cooperation with the parties concerned, through bilateral fisheries agreements and organizations such as FAO and RFMOs.

The problems of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities and over-capacity are so serious for sustainable use of living marine resources that it is urgent to address these problems on a global scale.

Regarding the discussions in FAO on the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Japan would like to express its appreciation to FAO and relevant States, for their efforts that brought about the adoption of the draft Agreement by the Conference of FAO after a year of negotiation.

In May 2010, the Review Conference on the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement took place, and a recommendation was adopted. Japan will continue to make efforts for strengthening the effectiveness of the Agreement through implementation of the recommendation in cooperation with other Contracting Parties.

3. Conclusion

Before concluding, Mr. President, Japan expresses its wish that the draft resolutions before us which are the results of intensive negotiations among the Member States conducted in a spirit of cooperation during the informal consultations will be duly adopted at this session of the General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. President.