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## Japan Contributes to the Trust Fund on the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

1. The Government of Japan provided 41,000 US dollars to the Trust Fund on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) from developing States in the meetings of the Commission.

2. The mandate of the CLCS is to consider the data and other material submitted by coastal States concerning the outer limits of the continental shelf in areas where those limits extend beyond 200 nautical miles, and to make recommendations in accordance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Statement of Understanding adopted on 29 August 1980 by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

3. The Trust Fund was established by General Assembly resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000, and the General Assembly urges States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in its resolution 62/215 of 22 December 2007.

4. The length of CLCS meetings has grown due to the increasing number of submissions and the large amount of data and other material submitted by States. At the same time, contributions to the Trust Fund have been limited in recent years, giving rise to the concern that a lack of resources might prevent members from developing States from participating in the meetings of the CLCS. Japan's contribution to the Trust Fund is intended to facilitate the work of the CLCS by ensuring the participation of members in the Commission meetings. The issue concerning the participation of members from developing States was actively discussed at the last States Parties meeting, and we hope that this issue will be addressed in an appropriate manner at the next meeting of States Parties, to be held in June 2008.

5. Japan has been assisting efforts of coastal States towards the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. In March 2006, Japan, in cooperation with United Nations University, hosted the International Symposium on Scientific and Technical Aspects on the Establishment of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf beyond 200 Nautical Miles in Tokyo. Japan also provided 205,000 US dollars to the Trust Fund in March 2007.