Statement by Mr. Kaitaro Nonomura
Representative of Japan

On Agenda Item 73:
Report of the International Criminal Court
United Nations General Assembly
31 October 2014

(Check Against Delivery)

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. President of the International Criminal Court,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank President Sang-Hyun Song for his comprehensive report on the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

As my delegation has said on many occasions, Japan attaches great importance to the ICC. The Court is established to punish the most serious crimes of concern to the international community and thereby to prevent such crimes. It contributes to the enhancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

We all know that the Court has been playing a remarkable role in putting an end to impunity against the crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. However, it must be also acknowledged that the purpose of the Court cannot be achieved by the Court alone. In this regard, allow me to commend the tireless efforts by H.E. Ambassador Intlemann of Estonia, President of the Assembly of States Parties. Let me also express Japan’s willingness to fully cooperate with Mr. Sidiki Kaba.

Mr. President,

Cooperation between the ICC and the United Nations is crucial.
This is particularly relevant with regard to cases referred by the Security Council. As was discussed in the open debate in the Security Council last week, it is appropriate for the Council to find out what measures to be taken to follow up such cases through dialogues with interested countries.

Mr. President,

One of the key priorities for the ICC is to serve the people who suffered from the grave crimes and to support them, especially women, children and affected communities. In this regard, Japan commends the praiseworthy work of the Trust Fund for Victims for the benefit of victims and their families under the leadership of the Board of Directors of the TFV. I feel proud to report to you, Mr. President and other States Parties that Prime Minister Abe of Japan has announced Japan’s first voluntary contribution to the TFV in May 2014.

As a leading supporter of the Court in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan renews its commitment to continue encouraging our Asia-Pacific friends, which have not yet to conclude to the Rome Statute. Japan is willing to assist the friends, if they wish, to develop their legal systems and human resources.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Japan remains deeply committed to providing the ICC with its unwavering support and cooperating with the Court to be even more efficient, effective and universal.

I thank you.