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Agenda Item 5: UNICEF Programme Cooperation (Namibia)

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to thank Ms. Geeta Rao Gupta and her team for her presentation. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to speak briefly about the draft country programme, 2014-2017 for Namibia.

<Countermeasures against HIV/AIDS>

The JICA Office in South Africa has been implementing a project entitled “Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity for HIV/AIDS Response Programmes” which focuses on health-sector programmes in southern Africa, including Namibia. The project supports the HIV/AIDS related programmes of the Government of Namibia and its development partners by monitoring their progress, evaluating their results and promoting their effective and efficient implementation.

The UNICEF country office in Namibia has adopted a policy of enacting countermeasures against HIV infection from mother to child, and has implemented an educational campaign to prevent HIV infection among youth. UNICEF has also prioritized HIV/AIDS related programmes in Namibia in its draft country programme. Japan recognizes that UNICEF implements HIV/AIDS related programmes, and that JICA implements mutually complimentary activities, such as monitoring and evaluating such programmes in their entirety. In this regard, my delegation hopes to see a synergistic effect from the combination of these various activities, with the support of the Government of Japan.

Mr. President,
The assistance policy of the Government of Japan for Namibia is based on our long-term national plan “Vision 2013” and the Government of Namibia’s “Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4)” though which it has adopted measures to improve the quality of life in rural farming areas, improve basic life-necessities and accelerate economic growth through the development of economic and industrial infrastructure. We expect our assistance policy to contribute to the realization of sustainable development and amelioration of economic disparity in Namibia. One of our areas of primary concern is the reduction of poverty and improvement of the standard of living in rural farming areas; in this regard Japan has been supporting measures for the improvement of the quality of life and basic life-necessities for the poor, including women, such as education, health and sanitation; taking into consideration the conditions of poverty and the disparity between the rich and the poor.

UNICEF’s current draft country plan for Namibia was made in conjunction with both Namibia’s national development plan and Japan’s assistance policy for Namibia, and it is expected to contribute to improvement of the basic standards of living, particularly in the areas of health and education. The UNICEF country office in Namibia has been implementing a project through our supplementary budget of the fiscal year 2012 for the amelioration of disparities in maternal health services and improvement in nutritional status in the seven northern districts of Namibia, where people are suffering from natural disasters and poverty. This project is scheduled from March to November. The goals of this programme align with our assistance policy, and it is well coordinated with my delegation.

Finally, we commend the UNICEF country office in Namibia because it makes every effort to present our contribution not only to the Government of Namibia but also to its beneficiaries in response to our request to increase the visibility of our country’s assistance. In this regard, this draft country programme is appropriate from the point of view of further strengthening both multi-lateral and bi-lateral cooperation hereafter, and my delegation fully supports it.

Thank you Mr. President.