

Mr. ITO
(Minister, JAPAN)
IT-16

Statement by the Japanese Delegation
Item 16: Contemporary forms of slavery
Right of Reply

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As this is the first time for me to take the floor, first of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as chairman of this Sub-Commission.

Now, my delegation wishes to make an intervention on the statements made by the International Educational Development, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Government of the Republic of Korea, which refer to so-called "comfort women" during World War II.

The Government of Japan has been conducting a study, since December 1991, on whether or not there was government involvement in the matter of "comfort women". As a result, it was confirmed there was government involvement in some areas. (The Government will disclose any new materials, if they are found).

The Government of Japan has expressed its sincere apology and remorse to all those, irrespective of nationality or origin, who underwent indescribable pains and sufferings as so-called "comfort women".

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Japan has sincerely dealt with the claims issues including the question of claims for compensation for this matter, between Japan and the Allied Powers or the regions separated from Japan after World War

II, in accordance with the San Francisco Peace Treaty, bilateral peace treaties and other relevant treaties. (For example, the claims issues between Japan and the Republic of Korea have been completely and finally resolved by agreement on the settlement of problems concerning property and claims and on economic co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea signed at Tokyo on 27 June 1965. The claims issues between Japan and North Korea are under discussion in Japan-North Korea normalization talks). Apart from such legal issues, the Government of Japan will consider, in deepest sincerity, how best we can embody our feelings towards those who underwent such pains and sufferings, while listening to the views of people from various circles.

Thank you.