

Mr. Yoshikawa (Japan):

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to you, Mr. President, for raising this timely and important topic. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his insightful briefing.

We witness almost every week terrorist attacks all over the world. In March alone, they occurred in Pakistan, Belgium, Turkey, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia. I express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, as well as to the Governments and the peoples of each of those countries.

Japan condemns terrorism in the strongest terms, and we are determined work with the international community to overcome terrorism. On Monday this week, in Hiroshima, the Group of Seven Foreign Ministers expressed their determination to stand united in countering terrorism in all its forms and wherever it occurs.

The fight against terrorism requires diverse efforts. Today, I would like to focus on two issues. The first is foreign terrorist fighters. It is estimated that around 30,000 fighters, from more than 100 Member States, are attracted to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and their associated groups. In order to stem the flow of such fighters, it is important to implement all relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular, resolution 2178 (2014). Today, many of those fighters travel from their countries of origin to another country before travelling on to the final destination, which helps them avoid detection; that is called "broken travel".

In order to detect broken travel, it is necessary not only to obtain passport details through the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), but also to obtain passenger name records (PNR), which contain passengers' booking information, such as their itineraries, the names of travelling companions and payment methods. The Permanent Representative of Uruguay already pointed out the importance of those systems. The Security Council recommends that Member States utilize both the APIS and the PNR systems as outlined in resolution 2178 (2014) and presidential statement S/PRST/2014/23, respectively. To my knowledge, only about a quarter of the 193 Member States have introduced APIS, and even fewer have introduced the PNR system. Only a small number of Member States have adopted those systems, which is not effective enough to detect broken travel. I therefore urge all Member States to introduce the systems as soon as possible. In that connection, I was very encouraged to hear from the delegation of France that the European Parliament approved the introduction of the PNR system today.

No country is immune from terrorism. Japan is on high alert for the risk of terrorist attacks in preparing the upcoming important events that Japan will host, such as the Group of Seven Summit in May this year, the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. We are committed to enhancing counter-terrorism measures, so that people from around the world can feel safe and will be secure when visiting Japan on those occasions.

The second aspect that I would like to address is the importance of tackling the root causes of terrorism. Many previous speakers, including my neighbour Malaysia, have also highlighted the importance of that aspect. Among the root causes, I wish to focus on how we can prevent violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism.

One possible way to prevent violent extremism is to provide assistance aimed at creating a society that does not give in to violent extremism. In that context, Japan attaches great importance to supporting women and girls so as to make societies more resilient. By empowering women, we can

empower other members of their families and communities. To that end, Japan has continuously funded projects of UN-Women, as well as those of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. One of this year's projects seeks to reinforce women's leadership through their engagement in political dialogue in the Sahel region. I hope that women's participation in political dialogue will contribute to building communities that are resilient against violent extremists, such as Boko Haram.

Finally, I would like to stress that violent extremism has broad aspects in its nature, and so, preventing it requires a comprehensive approach, utilizing all the knowledge and experience of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Japan commends and strongly supports the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), which provides the basis for an all-United Nations approach. The Plan of Action and an all-United Nations approach should be reflected in the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to be held in June in the General Assembly. I wish to conclude by expressing Japan's willingness to participate constructively in that debate.

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