Japan’s contribution (proposal)

May 29th, 2015

- As we have expressed previously at the UN, we maintain that, before discussing any new legal framework, it is crucial to ensure the full implementation of existing frameworks relating to older persons such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

- With regard to the aforementioned Plan of Action, we stress the importance of conducting continuous reviews of its implementation. We strongly believe that steady implementation of the Plan of Action through the review process contributes to the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons.

- We believe that the full implementation of existing frameworks, such as the Plan of Action and various UN human rights treaties, including through the use of Special Rapporteurs and the Universal Periodic Review as well as through mainstreaming the issue of the rights of older persons at the UN, is needed to protect and promote the human rights of older persons.

- When creating a new legal framework, achieving a broad and international consensus is crucial in order to make it universal. However, with regard to the draft resolution entitled “Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons” (A/RES/67/139); a number of countries abstained from voting on this resolution at the 67th session of the General Assembly. It can be understood from that fact that there is as yet no broad international consensus on the establishment of an international legally binding instrument for older persons.

- Japan is committed to protecting and promoting the human rights of older persons. For that purpose, Japan will continue to be actively engaged in the open-ended working group based on General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/182.