

other states in accepting the instrument, so as to ensure the compatibility between the Statute and Japan's own domestic law. Now that the ICC Statute has entered into force, Japan intends to accelerate such examination.

It goes without saying that what we all strive for is the peace and stability in international society where there exists no war, hunger and suffering of people. Despite all the aspiration among the people and the wisdom of leaders and intellectuals to realize such world, we have yet to achieve this goal. What is so deplorable is that we are still witnessing the recurrence of violence, grief and tears among our friends and neighbors around the world. This is the reality that called for the creation of the ICC.

All who have worked so hard since the Rome Conference to establish the ICC are fully aware that, in the ideal world, the ICC would not be asked to judge any case at all. However, since from the birth of the United Nations, we have seen so many lives lost, tears shed and heart broken. We have also seen in a number of circumstances where justice cannot be done and the peace cannot be achieved by one country. It is in such circumstances the collective effort of international society were made so as to establish the mechanism of the standing international court to judge the most atrocious crimes in this world.

Mr. Chair,

It is our dearest hope that through the basic principle of complementarity, there will be a rule of law spread out in the international community. The ICC will serve as the catalyst for each nation to fully implement its obligations under international law, and suppress any attempt, or even intention for anyone to dare to commit such grave violation of human rights. With its comprehensive coverage of the most serious crimes and thorough cooperation the Court can enjoy from the State Parties, the ICC will ensure that there will be no place on earth where perpetrators to escape from. Thus, we can truly root out the cause that tolerates the culture of impunity. In order to achieve such objectives, it is imperative that the ICC wins the widest possible support among the members of the international community. In this regard, it is essential that in the remaining time before us, we all should endeavor to ensure that the Court operates on a solid standing.

In the previous session, some delegates referred to the state of the ICC as in its "embryonic" phase. Now that the Rome Statute has entered into force and the Court has come into its legal existence, let us offer our hands so that it can enter into its youth and subsequently become a trustworthy and independent adult. Through actively engaging in the discussion here at this session of the Preparatory Commission, Japan intends to continue its effort to achieve international justice in the world, and on this historic moment, the our delegation would like to reiterate its firm commitment for this solemn undertaking.

Thank you for your attention.