

Japan would like to support the adoption of the interim work plan and fully appreciate Chairman's leadership to the implementation of the Global Convention Without his strong leadership, it would have been difficult to get to where we are today.

Under this work plan, the development of an operational guideline is crucial. It is expected to promote a common understanding among the parties providing information that will contribute to strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

In addition, many non-Parties that are considering ratifying the Global Convention will be able to easily understand the benefits of the Convention through this Operational Guideline . Therefore we are willing to join the WG of the draft operational guideline.

Last November, states party of the Tokyo convention adopted the decision to encourage and support countries to sign on to the Tokyo Convention and the new Global Convention to facilitate greater intraregional and interregional mobility and cooperation, to help more countries realise the benefits that the conventions can provide, and to facilitate a strong and well-represented regional network.

Japan, as a member of the bureau of both the Global and the Tokyo Convention, we would like to contribute to the promotion of mobility in higher education with quality assurance in a synergistic manner both in the world and in the Asia-Pacific region by taking a bird's-eye view of both perspectives.

As part of this effort, Japan made a financial contribution to support implementation of the Global Convention, as well as UNESCO's activities to encourage member states of the regional convention to join the global convention in the Asia-Pacific region, The latter project has just been launched taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the Committee of the States Parties to the Tokyo Convention. We will continue to contribute to the promotion of both the World Covenant and the Tokyo Covenant subject to the work plan.

Thank you.