

Japan's Statement for Item 21 Audit and Oversight Matters

Japan supports the joint statement delivered by the Netherlands regarding the issue of sexual exploitation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We would like to express our concern about the allegations on widespread abuse by aid workers allegedly affiliated with the WHO.

We welcome the establishment of the Independent Commission and the work to develop the TOR, as well as the contract with an independent external body with experience in this type of investigation to assist the Independent Commission.

We expect transparency on this topic. Taking a long time for investigation only works in favor of the perpetrators. Prompt action is very much required.

Given that there are existing harassment countermeasures, we look forward that the investigation will clarify how the organization can improve to create a safe working environment. Furthermore, we believe that the WHO will implement solid actions that prevent a recurrence.

We would like to highlight that concrete actions against sexual harassment in all three levels at the WHO headquarters, regional offices, and country offices, as well as an audit system with transparency is necessary.

Thank you.