

Statement by Minister Katsuhide Ariyoshi
Delegation of Japan
On the 33rd Committee on Information
28 April 2011

th March.

The Great East Japan Earthquake, a magnitude 9 event which spawned unimaginably huge tsunami and precipitated a nuclear power accident, has been, I believe, one of the greatest disasters Japan has ever faced. An overwhelming number of people have lost their lives or are missing and many more still remain evacuated. As soon as the news of this disaster spread all over the world, a significant number of countries, international organizations including the United Nations, as well as NGOs and other entities have communicated their willingness to provide assistance. I take this opportunity to express once again our sincere gratitude for the condolences and support offered by your Missions, your countries and your organizations to the Japanese people in this time of great hardship. The

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Secretary-General to Japan.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Secretary-General visited Japan from the 3rd to the 7th of August last year. During his stay in Japan, Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon met with Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Naoto Kan and then Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada. These meetings provided an opportunity to exchange views on0 1 479[()-122(P)5(r)-7(i)-18(m)31