

Statement by Mr. Gensaku MAEDA
Representative of Japan
At the Meeting of the Sixth Committee
On the Law of Transboundary Aquifers

19 October 2022

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

Let me reiterate the importance of the topic of the law of transboundary aquifers. As is often pointed out, demand for fresh water has dramatically increased over recent decades, particularly where rapid socio-economic development has taken place.

A large portion of the world's fresh water is located in underground aquifers, which frequently exist across national boundaries. A number of these aquifers are heavily over-exploited, seriously depleted and damaged by pollution, and in need of proper management mechanisms. Therefore, developing legal instruments for regulating the use of transboundary aquifers is an important task for all Member States to achieve the common goal of sustainable development.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Japan believes that the ILC draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers provide a valuable platform for countries to

- Second, they are well supported by scientific evidence through cooperation with the UNESCO, which provided valuable support to the IL

- Third, the draft articles lay out the essential elements of a possible legal framework, thus allowing them to serve as a general and common basis for negotiations on particular bilateral or regional agreements and arrangements.

In this connection, we are glad to note, as a positive development since 2019, that the Agreement on Guaraní Aquifers finally entered into force on 26 November 2020. We see this Agreement is based on the ILC draft articles and is expected to serve as preventive di