**United Nations Statistical Commission**  
**Fifty-third session**  
**Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda**  
**Items for discussion and decision: working methods of the Statistical Commission**


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**Statement provided by:**  
Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan

**Statement:**

We appreciate the efforts of the UNSD on the categorization of international normative work, as it would be helpful to clarify the meaning of such normative work.

However, the ways in which we use terms in normative work have a long and complex historical background, and we should recognize that there are limits to sorting out all of them logically.

While we believe that it would be beneficial to some extent to prepare a standardized set of terms for the document titles of normative work, it should be noted that some fluctuations in such terms will not cause substantial misunderstanding, because the documents on international standards normally state their aims and objectives very clearly in themselves.

It is necessary to apply the most appropriate terms when newly adopting standards in the future, but we do not think it is appropriate or necessary to retroactively apply new terminology of normative work to existing international standards or revisions to such standards, as doing so would cause confusion.

We recognize certain benefits of this exercise, but we must be cautious in allocating the limited resources of the UNSD and UNSC excessively to the work of research on the usage of normative terms.

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