The Standards of human rights as provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should indeed be universally applicable, although their actual implementation in a particular State is bound to reflect its specific historical, cultural, social and/or other conditions. However, national institutions existing in that State, whether governmental or non-governmental, certainly influence the speed and content of the implementation. In his speech the speaker will emphasize the possibility of the role which non-governmental organizations can play to improve human rights situations in various States, based on his experience as a member of the Human Rights committee as well as on his experience with Japanese institutions.