

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Norio Mitsuya,
Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the General Debate of the ECOSOC High-level Segment**

7 July 2014, New York

Mr. President,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to deliver a statement on behalf of the Government of Japan at this general debate of the ECOSOC High-level Segment.

As 2015, the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), draws near, we stand at a critical juncture in their achievement. The international community has succeeded in achieving some of the MDGs, such as halving the proportion of people in extreme poverty. However, other goals are yet to be achieved. It is therefore our urgent priority to accelerate our efforts to achieve the MDGs.

At the same time, discussions towards the formulation of international development goals beyond 2015 are moving forward. In this regard, Japan looks forward to the outcomes of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the synthesis report of the Secretary-General.

Japan believes that the concept of human security should be a guiding principle of a concise, clear and aspirational post-2015 development agenda in order for it to be able to focus on individuals and address diverse development challenges. At the thematic debate of the General Assembly on human security held on 18 June, a productive discussion took place about the usefulness of the human security approach in the post-2015 development agenda. The discussion at this thematic debate should be duly reflected in the formulation of the agenda.

According to the principle of human security, three elements are essential for

development – inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience. Addressing the issue of disparities widened through the process of development requires inclusive growth that leaves no one behind. It is also necessary to achieve sustainable development which integrates the three dimensions of economy, society and environment in a balanced manner, and to build a society that is resilient to risks such as conflicts, disasters and economic crises.

Mr. President,

Today half of the world's population lives in cities. Urbanization, which is the theme of ECOSOC this year, must also be inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Today the UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), which is headquartered in Nagoya, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), co-organized a side event entitled "Promoting Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Urban Development," which I also attended to deliver opening remarks. As urbanization increases globally, we need to ensure sustainability by addressing urbanization taking into consideration resource efficiency. Furthermore, sustainable development requires efforts of this kind at both the regional and national levels. Let me therefore take this opportunity to call upon the Member States to provide financial contributions to the UNCRD, which has been working on regional development.

It is also necessary to develop cities resilient to disasters. We must therefore mainstream disaster risk reduction (DRR) into the post-2015 development agenda. In this connection, Japan will host a side event on DRR on 10 July, in which I welcome your participation. Japan will also host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March of next year in the city of Sendai, which was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake three years ago and has since rebuilt itself. The conference will be a significant opportunity to promote the mainstreaming of DRR. We welcome your participation in this conference, too.

Mr. President,

In order to establish and implement an effective, transformative and inclusive post-2015 development agenda, the importance of measures to ensure accountability cannot be overemphasized. A comprehensive mechanism to ensure accountability should be built directly into the post-2015 development agenda. The discussions being held at the High Level Political Forum are important in this regard.

Last but not least, discussions on a global partnership as well as the means of implementation to achieve our goals continue to be important. With regard to development financing, the necessity of mobilizing a wide range of resources such as domestic resource mobilization, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and private financing is increasingly significant while ODA remains essential. I conclude my statement by calling for cooperation among all Member States to engage in productive discussions beyond the traditional and frankly artificial division of “north and south” and to present a new global partnership wherein all stakeholders join forces towards truly universal goals.

Thank you for your kind attention.