

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (disability aid provider), Mr. Yusuke Yoshizawa teaches dancing to children at the Little Assisi Special School in Zambia. (Photo: Atsushi Shibuya / JICA)

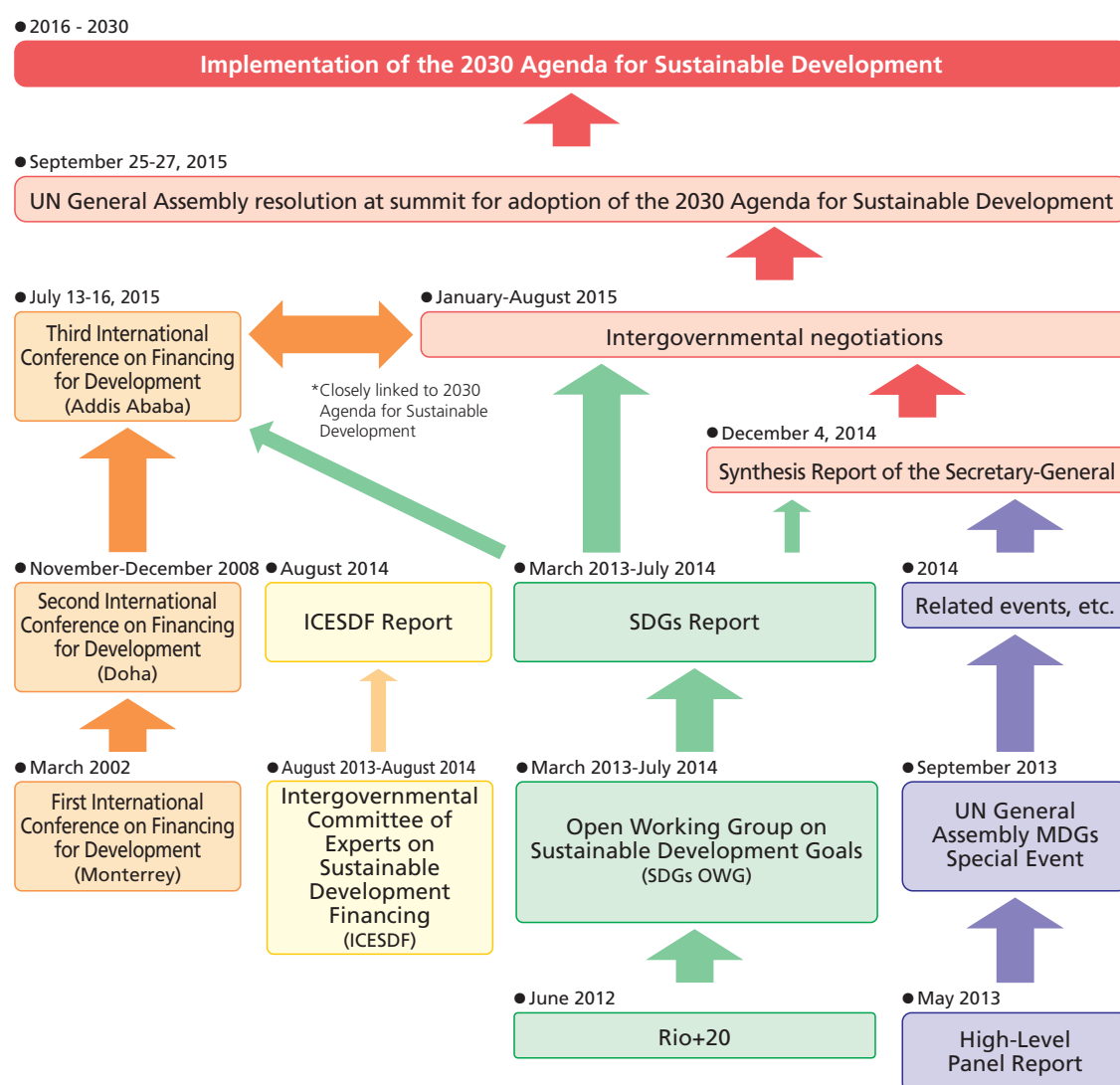
Section 1

Efforts Leading up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UN Summit on the MDGs, held at the UN in September 2010, served as a forum for world leaders to discuss the post-2015 development agenda, i.e., the goals that would succeed the MDGs after 2015. The global discussions regarding the post-2015 development agenda swung into full gear by way of the ministerial-level MDGs Follow-up Meeting that Japan co-organized with the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and other partners in June of the following year (2011), and an informal ministerial-level meeting on the MDGs held on the margins of the UN General Assembly session in September of the same year. The work of arriving at the agenda proceeded through notably the following three processes (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 ♦ The Process of Establishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



● Process led by the UN Secretary-General

At the UN, discussions on the post-2015 development agenda began at a High-Level Panel launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in July 2012 consisting of 27 eminent persons. In May 2013, the High-Level Panel submitted a report to Secretary-General Ban proposing post-2015 goals comprised of 12 goals and 54 targets.

Thereafter, Secretary-General Ban continued to host a series of fora at which timeframes were determined for the subsequent intergovernmental negotiations and adoption, including the Special Event towards Achieving the MDGs held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in September 2013 and the thematic debates and high-level events held in 2014.



Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe announces Japan's initiatives to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in September 2015. (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

● Process of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

The approach to sustainable development had been discussed from before at the UN in various fora, including the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio, Brazil in 1992.

As part of this effort, it was decided at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012 that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be created, and that these goals would be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

Based on this decision, the intergovernmental Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs OWG) was established, and in July 2014, following negotiations held among nearly all UN member states, SDGs OWG proposed SDGs consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets.

These proposed SDGs were basically incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda (the 2030 Agenda for



A JICA team member, Mr. Tomohiro Honda visits an organic onion field at a pilot farm near Bishkek in the Chuy Province, the Kyrgyz Republic. (Photo: Kaku Suzuki / JICA)

Sustainable Development adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015).

● Development financing process

In the process of considering the post-2015 development agenda, important items for consideration were not only development goals and targets, but also securing and utilizing the financing necessary for achieving these goals and targets. It was primarily the UN-led International Conference on Financing for Development process. Under this process, discussions have taken place regarding financing for development agenda, including the MDGs, through the first conference in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002 and the second conference in Doha, Qatar in 2008. In the lead-up to the third conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2015, this matter was studied among the countries with a focus on development financing for the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the issue of financing for the post-2015 development agenda was discussed at the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable

Development Financing launched in response to Rio+20 held in 2012.

Taking into account these processes, UN member states commenced formal intergovernmental negotiations regarding the post-2015 development agenda in January 2015, as well as the goals and targets and their indicators to be incorporated into the agenda. In the course of seven rounds of negotiations, 193 UN member states exchanged their views concerning the basic concept, goals, means of implementation, follow-up, and more. In this process, dialogues were also carried out with private companies and representatives of civil society. Following this process, the countries agreed on the draft 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on August 2, 2015, Japan time, the final day of the seventh round of the negotiations. World leaders formally adopted the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Summit held from September 25 to 27. Prior to this, in July 2015, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda pertaining to development financing for the post-2015 development agenda was adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Ethiopia.

A comparison of the processes of arriving at the MDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reveals that in contrast with the MDGs that were established by a process led by UN experts, the latter involved diverse processes and proceeded with the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including UN member states, international organizations, private companies, and civil society. This was a suitable process for



A JICA Expert, Mr. Mitsuhiro Kato greets a group of model farmers in Kijabe, Kenya. (Photo: Takeshi Kuno / JICA)

Features of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

- (i) It follows the structure of the outcome documents from the 2002 Monterrey and 2008 Doha Conferences (I. Introduction, II. Actions, and III. Follow-up).
- (ii) It confirmed “the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources” and the importance of private companies. It reconfirmed the ODA numerical targets (0.7% of ODA/GNI and 0.15-0.20% of ODA/GNI to LDCs), identifying that international public finance (e.g., ODA) complements the efforts of countries to mobilize domestic resources.
- (iii) Science, technology, and innovation became an independent sub-chapter. The provisions related to monitoring capacity building and follow-up were significantly strengthened.
- (iv) The Action Agenda would be used to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015.

establishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which espouses a commitment to global partnership, with participation from both developing and developed countries and the involvement of diverse stakeholders.

Japan has been proactively engaged in the process of establishing the new development agenda based on the following concept: (i) Build upon the experience and lessons learned from the MDGs; (ii) Give attention to the issues of regional and intra-country disparities and ensure that the vulnerable are not left behind; (iii) Sufficiently shine a spotlight on growth and employment, the sources of wealth creation; (iv) Adapt to changes in the international community; and (v) Promote ownership by developing



Trainees from Ghana visiting Japan for training on rice harvesting technologies observe procedures for shipment of cherry tomatoes at a warehouse of JA Ogata-mura in Akita Prefecture. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)



Ground breaking ceremony of the Project for Water Supply in Karadolo West held at Milambo Primary School in Siaya County in the western part of Kenya. (Photo: Kumiko Shibaoka / Embassy of Japan in Kenya)

countries. Accordingly, Japan has been committed to contributing to the progress of the international efforts while explaining Japan's views through holding various events, namely, the MDGs Follow-up Meeting in June 2011 that was referred to earlier, an informal policy dialogue pertaining to the post-2015 development agenda launched in December 2011 (Contact Group), and related events held on the margins of the UN General Assembly session and the Tokyo Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (2012).

1. Overview of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) sets out ambitious global goals aimed at achieving sustainable development, determined to end poverty in

all its forms everywhere, including eradicating extreme poverty by 2030.

● Basic concept

At the outset, the 2030 Agenda lists “five Ps” that constitute the keywords of sustainable development: People; Planet; Prosperity; Peace; and Partnership. The Agenda states that the development goals pursued under it are based on a comprehensive and “people-centered” concept, and that it seeks to address the remaining challenges of the MDGs,

which could not be achieved by 2015, as well as new challenges which are beyond the MDGs. In addition, the Agenda also presents the basic concepts that all countries including developing and developed countries need to commit to the achievement of the goals, and that “no one will be left behind” in the world.

● Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda identifies 17 Goals and 169 targets as comprising the SDGs. Compared to their predecessor, the MDGs, consisting of 8 Goals and 21 targets, the SDGs contain many more goals with broad and comprehensive content.

As demonstrated by the goals set out in Goals 1 to 6, the 17 Goals include goals that succeed and build on the goals of the MDGs, including poverty, hunger, nutrition, education, gender, and water and sanitation. For example, Goal 1 of the MDGs was to eradicate “extreme” poverty.¹

Specifically, it set out a target to halve the proportion of people in “extreme” poverty by 2015 compared to the 1990 level. In contrast, the 2030 Agenda takes a step further, setting forth Goal 1 of the SDGs as eradicating poverty “in all its forms everywhere.” The Agenda gives the concrete targets of aiming to eradicate “extreme” poverty all over the world and to reduce at least by half the proportion of people living in “poverty in all its dimensions” according to national definitions by 2030.



Note 1: At the time, the World Bank defined extreme poverty as living under \$1.25 a day or in Japanese yen roughly ¥150 a day. (The World Bank defined it as living under \$1.90 a day as of January, 2016.)

At the same time, various development issues have been newly added to the 2030 Agenda as SDGs, reflecting the increasing global recognition of the importance of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth. The goals set out in Goals 7 to 16, covering issues from economic growth and infrastructure, reduction of disparities, sustainable consumption and production, to climate action and the realization of peace, were not included in the MDGs in any clear form.



A large-scale solar panel facility built with grant aid from Japan at the University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana. (Photo: Takeshi Kuno / JICA)

● Means of implementation

The 2030 Agenda also defines the means of implementation (MOI) for achieving the SDGs. In this connection, it emphasizes especially the importance of meeting the SDGs under the Global Partnership framework which mobilizes resources that can be utilized by all actors, including governments, civil society, the private sector, and UN agencies. The 2030 Agenda mentions ODA numerical targets (e.g., 0.7% of ODA/GNI). It underscores the importance of ODA continuing to fulfill an essential role, including the role of catalyst for mobilizing private flows, as well as the importance of providing assistance for technology transfers and capacity building, as MOI of the 2030 Agenda.



The construction site of the Bangken Water Treatment Plant in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region, Thailand. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

● Follow-up and review

The 2030 Agenda provides for the follow-up and review processes of the progress of achieving the SDGs. Specifically, it notes that the High-level Political Forum of the UN will meet every four years to follow up on and review the global implementation status of the 2030 Agenda, and that follow-ups and reviews would also be conducted at the national and regional levels. Indicators that will be used to measure the level of achievement of the SDGs in this process will be developed based on reviews conducted by a working group of the UN Statistical Commission.



Japanese experts providing support under the Local Rice Promotion Project in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, observe rice paddies together with local people. (Photo: Masataka Otsuka / JICA)

2. Features of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda thus identifies broad and diverse goals compared to its predecessor, the MDGs. The 2030

Agenda that embodies this comprehensiveness has a number of features.

● Universality

“Universality” is a key feature of the 2030 Agenda, meaning that the development goals apply to all countries including developed countries, not only developing countries. Indeed, the 2030 Agenda lists many goals concerning issues that face not only developing countries but also developed countries. For example, the goals pertaining to Goal 10’s issue of disparities, Goal 12’s sustainable consumption and production, and Goal 13’s climate action are issues that all countries including developed countries need to address domestically.

● Need for cross-cutting approaches

The 2030 Agenda presents a comprehensive set of actions for development, and simultaneously, underlines the inter-linkages between the goals listed by each sector. To implement the 2030 Agenda effectively and efficiently, efforts need to be made to achieve the individual goals and targets, bearing in mind that each issue is not disconnected and that they are closely linked to one another.

For example, in an effort to provide clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), wells or safe and clean toilets may be installed in a community. In turn this can prevent the spread of illnesses (Goal 3: people’s health) and prevent malnutrition caused by diarrhea and other factors (Goal 2: eradicate hunger and improve nutrition, etc.) Furthermore, it can free the community’s girls from having to fetch



A man creates products at a workshop in a facility for people with disabilities supported by a Japanese NGO in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

water, which takes as many as five hours a day, and give them opportunities to attend schools (Goal 4: education). In addition, as is the case in a rural village in India, if women in communities are trained to become repairers of these wells and their revenues then increase, this would also contribute to achieving goals such as eradicating poverty (Goal 1), gender equality (Goal 5), and reduced disparities (Goal 10).

The more that the target goals of development cooperation become diverse and broad, the more important it becomes to pursue consistent and strategic approaches that take into account the “integrated and indivisible” nature of these goals.



People work at a fish market built with aid from Japan in Antigua and Barbuda. (Photo: Kosuke Okahara / JICA)



Pupils study at an elementary school on Ngerekebesang Island in the state of Koror, Palau. (Photo: Kaku Suzuki / JICA)

● Focus on the Global Partnership

The Global Partnership is another key feature of the 2030 Agenda. To implement the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to build a Global Partnership that mutually complements and makes use of a variety of resources, including ODA and private flows, with a range of actors working together such as developed and developing country governments, civil society, and the private sector, by overcoming the traditional North-South dichotomy.

The importance of the Global Partnership is underscored throughout the 2030 Agenda, including in the Preamble (see below). Goal 17 of the SDGs identifies “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” as a goal. To this end, the Agenda sets concrete targets, including mobilizing domestic financing through tax and other revenue collection, promoting the transfer of technologies

and capacity building in various sectors such as trade and investment, and developing international institutions.

Through these efforts, it is expected that the Global Partnership indispensable to the promotion of the 2030 Agenda will be undertaken in a broad context.

Preamble of the 2030 Agenda: “Partnership”

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

3. Japan's Efforts

The 2030 Agenda provides that all countries will implement this plan and its progress will be tracked. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 that adopted the 2030 Agenda, the leaders of not only developing countries but also many developed countries stated that they would incorporate the SDGs into their national development strategies and plans, and implement the 2030 Agenda domestically. Each country is working quickly to study the necessary mechanisms and concrete efforts to this end. The following introduces Japan's basic policy regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Mr. Shuichi Numata, general supervisor of the construction worksite of a Health and Social Promotion Center in Burkina Faso and Mr. Reona Nozaki, the locally-stationed supervisor and project manager, participate in a ceremony for handing-over the site to local people. (Photo: Shuichi Numata)

As described in Section 1, Japan has consistently and proactively contributed to the discussions and negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, even before the start of full-fledged international discussions. The fundamental principles incorporated into the 2030 Agenda, such as “people-centered” and “no one will be left behind,” reflect the human security principles that have been promoted globally under Japan's leadership. It was also Japan that proposed the necessity of the Global Partnership. Likewise, Japan had proposed the development issues that were taken up in the SDGs, including women, health, education, disaster risk reduction, and quality growth. For all of these reasons Japan welcomes the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and will put forth its best possible efforts to achieve the SDGs as a member of the Global Partnership.

Japan will carry this effort forward with the new Development Cooperation Charter established in February 2015 as a compass. It upholds the principles that have characterized Japan's development cooperation for many years. The new Charter sets out a policy of cooperation for non-military purposes, assistance for self-help efforts, and promoting human security which focuses on each and every individual. At the same time, the new Charter presents that the Government of Japan would effectively address new issues facing the international community while strengthening its partnerships with the private



Staff members of a Dominican fishery cooperative control the freezing of mahi-mahi through fisheries management technical cooperation from Japan. (Photo: Kosuke Okahara / JICA)

sector, civil society, local governments, universities, and other actors. Thus, the Development Cooperation Charter already contains components that are essential for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

One of the priority issues in the Development Cooperation Charter that set the direction for Japan's future development cooperation is “quality growth” and poverty eradication through such growth.” “Quality growth” refers to economic growth encompassing: “inclusiveness,” allowing all individuals to enjoy the fruits of development without leaving anyone behind; “sustainability,” allowing for sustainable development to be achieved in the three dimensions of the economic, social, and environmental; and “resilience” to withstand risks, such as conflicts, natural disasters, and economic crises, through enhancing the capacities of individuals and communities as well as infrastructure development. This is exactly one of the goals that the 2030 Agenda seeks to achieve through the SDGs.

The Development Cooperation Charter underlines that Japan will promote development cooperation more proactively as a “Proactive Contributor to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, taking into consideration that various risks, including regional conflicts, terrorism, and fragile states, may seriously affect the economies of all countries, including Japan as well as



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Ms. Yoshie Tamai teaches children how to manage and maintain books at a library room established in a school dormitory in the province of Uvurkhangai, Mongolia. (Photo: Takako Tsukagoshi)

developing countries. In addition, the Charter specifies that in a manner commensurate with a peace-loving nation, Japan will provide assistance for maintaining stability and security which form the foundation of prosperity. These efforts too are in alignment with what the 2030 Agenda aspires to achieve, which identifies Goal 16 as “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development” and sets concrete targets such as promoting the rule of law, combating organized crime, and providing assistance for building capacity to prevent violence and combat terrorism.



A construction worksite of a substation facility and an electrical distribution network in Kigali, Rwanda. (Photo: Takeshi Kuno / JICA)

The Development Cooperation Charter states that Japan will aim to build a sustainable and resilient international community through efforts to address global challenges that cannot be dealt with by a single country alone. Furthermore, the Charter lays out Japan's intentions to promote “All-Japan” partnerships that include private companies, civil society, local governments and universities. It also presents Japan's intention to deepen mutually beneficial partnerships between Japan and developing countries on an equal footing, as embodied in the term “development cooperation.” Building these partnerships based on the Development Cooperation Charter will contribute considerably to the Global Partnership that is considered indispensable to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This requires that the Japanese Government make further efforts to broaden and deepen understanding within Japan regarding the content and significance of the Development Cooperation Charter and the 2030 Agenda, as well as the underlying situation of global development.

As described, under the Development Cooperation Charter, Japan, as a “Proactive Contributor to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, will more proactively carry out development cooperation that contributes to “quality growth” globally, making use of “All-Japan” partnerships that include the private and public sectors, NGOs, and local governments, by

upholding principles such as human security and assistance for self-help efforts. Therefore, Japan will take a leading role in promoting quality infrastructure investment (note: see ODA Topics on pages 42-43) not only in Asia, but also across the world including Africa. Additionally, Japan will promote the development of industrial human resources, a key driving force to achieve such growth, taking advantage of Japan's high educational standards and advanced technology. Japan will also implement cooperation so as to ensure that no one will be left behind, placing focus on people in vulnerable situations. This will include efforts in sectors such as health, beginning with efforts to better prepare the international community for public health emergencies such as the Ebola virus disease outbreak and to promote universal health coverage (UHC)² in every country, as well as education and assistance for women. Japan led the effort to adopt the World Tsunami Awareness Day (November 5) at the UN General Assembly in December 2015. To assist with the building of resilient societies and communities worldwide, Japan will continue to demonstrate leadership in the international community in the area of disaster risk reduction, including the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in March 2015 and enhancing tsunami-related outreach activities and countermeasures. With a view to realizing a sustainable environment and society, Japan will share with the world its knowledge on climate change efforts as well as on building a sound material-cycle society as epitomized by the concept of the 3Rs, “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.”³ Further still, Japan will make efforts for the economic development and stability of developing countries through providing assistance for peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance for refugees and others, law enforcement assistance including maritime security and border control measures, which will form the foundation of prosperity in Japan and the rest of the world.

It is expected that Japan's efforts of this kind based on the Development Cooperation Charter will contribute significantly to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the entire international community.



Organized collection of blood samples conducted as part of malaria countermeasures in a village in Guadalcanal, the Solomon Islands. (Photo: Sayaka Oguri)

Note 2: UHC refers to basic health services that can be accessed at affordable cost whenever necessary throughout the lifetime of all people. Japan has identified the promotion of UHC as a key policy target since establishing Japan's Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy in 2013.

Note 3: The 3Rs refer to the “reduction of waste, reuse of resources and products, and recycle.”

4. Conclusion

The adoption of goals to be achieved by the international community by 2030 at the UN for the first time in 15 years marks a historic achievement. Events and campaigns welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda were held all over the world, including in New York and cities across Japan. Governments as well as international organizations and civic groups are working to further advance their policies and efforts based on the 2030 Agenda. Private companies also seek to leverage the 2030 Agenda as a critical opportunity to evolve their businesses and

contribute to solving social issues.

On the other hand, by no means will it be easy to steadily implement the Agenda over the next 15 years. As with the MDGs, unforeseen new issues may emerge in the face of a changing international situation surrounding development.

As members of the new Global Partnership involving an array of stakeholders each fulfilling their respective roles, every one of us needs to take actions to achieve the SDGs by having a vision of the world in 2030.