G7 International Symposium on Food Security and Nutrition
Keynote Speech by Mr. Kentaro SONOURA, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
(Opening Session on 25 October 2016 at the United Nations University)

1．Opening

●Thank you very much, Mrs. Abe.　On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my heartfelt welcome to all participants.

2．Results of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit

●Hunger and malnutrition are posing serious challenges to the world today. The international community must work together to solve this problem by enhancing agricultural growth, food security and nutrition.

●This year, at the Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 leaders endorsed the "*G7 Vision for Action on Food Security and Nutrition*" and committed to engage collectively in concrete actions to achieve the aim of lifting 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

3．Prioritized Areas in the Vision for Action and the Future We Pursue

●The *Vision for Action* identifies three priority areas for concrete actions on food security and nutrition.

●The first priority area under the *Vision for Action* is women's empowerment in agriculture and food systems. Under this item, we hope firstly to promote women's equal rights and access to resources, particularly land; secondly, to increase economic opportunities with higher and fair returns, both on- and off-farm; and thirdly to create an enabling environment for women to participate in economic activities. This will lead to the future where women can shine and actively engage in agriculture and food systems.

●The second priority area is nutrition improvement. In so doing, the G7 will take a people-centered approach, which focuses on diverse needs of vulnerable individuals suffering from all forms of malnutrition, throughout individuals' lives and across the rural-to-urban spectrum. This way, the G7 aims to deliver sustained nutrition outcomes for individuals as well as populations, by empowering people and communities. Improving nutrition of children is especially critical for their healthy development and active participation in economy and society. Investing in nutrition is investing for the future of our children to bloom into their full potential.

●The third and last priority area under the *Vision for Action* is sustainability and resilience. The G7 aims firstly, to promote sustainable agriculture practices on climate change; secondly, to enhance responsible agricultural investment; thirdly, to foster linkages in agriculture and food value chains across the rural-to-urban spectrum; and lastly, to enhance resilience of the livelihoods of farmers and that of agriculture and food systems against climatic shocks and protracted crises. This will lead to the future where sustainability of our planet is ensured.

●The G7 also commits to make efforts for better data, and will take measures to enhance implementation and accountability.

4. Conclusion

●Looking back, it was the G8 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit in 2008 when food security was dealt with for the first time. Since then, the G7 has been making various efforts, and last year at the Schloss Elmau Summit, the leaders put forward the ambitious target aiming to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

●Building on such efforts as well as on efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change, this Symposium intends to offer an opportunity to enhance the global momentum. Also, we can increase synergies with the "Nutrition for Growth" event held in Brazil, as well as "TICAD VI" held in Kenya, where the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa was launched.

●Enhancing food security and nutrition is key to realize *human security*, which enables individuals enjoy *freedom from fear* and *freedom from want* and develop their full potential.

●In order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential for all stakeholders to further accelerate their efforts. I hope participants will have fruitful discussions today and tomorrow. Also, I wish this Symposium will successfully rally global efforts, and identify better ways to tackle challenges as well as opportunities for further collaboration.

●Thank you very much.

(End)