

Opening Remarks by Mr. Motome TAKISAWA
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
At Roundtable Seminar on "Climate Change and Fragility Implications on
International Security"
Thursday, January 19, 2017

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my great pleasure to host the Roundtable Seminar on “Climate Change and Fragility Implications on International Security”.

This Roundtable Seminar is held under the mandate given by G7 Foreign Ministers at the Ministerial Meeting in Hiroshima last April to develop measures to tackle a serious threat to international security posed by climate change.

Paris Agreement entered into force on November 4 last year. This epoch-making agreement obligates both developed and developing countries to take climate change measures to reduce greenhouse gases after 2020. Being an active member of international community, Japan will strive for further reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

We see many transboundary global issues happening such as several large scale disasters, the mass influx of refugees and displaced persons and drastic increase in demand for resources including water and foods. Some point out that the impact of climate change caused by such events as temperature rise and change of rainfall pattern may be at the root of transboundary problems. It is also argued that the risk of political instability and conflicts in the fragile regions may not be mitigated unless risks caused by climate change are not incorporated in one’s foreign policy. Climate change has thus become serious challenges in foreign policy which requires a concerted effort by international community as they impact the foundation of many countries, in particular, countries under fragile environment.

G7 Foreign Ministers recognize that climate change is among the most serious challenges that international community faces and poses a threat to the environment, global security and economic prosperity.

In today’s seminar, we have the participation of leading experts in various fields both from Japan and abroad, and we will engage in active

discussion that creates nexus between climate change and their field of expertise. I hope that all the participants will share their views and information about the possible impact brought by climate change in each field, deepen their understanding on the complicated and compound risks to climate change and fragility, and to discuss how international community would tackle those issues.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all participants, in particular, the general public who applied through the website. I hope today's seminar be a good opportunity to better understand this issue and to provide us with some guidance to further consider how each of us should respond to climate change issue in our daily life.

Thank you.