

**Remarks by Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, State Minister for Foreign Affairs**  
**at**  
**International Conference on Climate Change and Fragility**  
**in the Asia Pacific Region**  
**Tokyo, July 12, 2018**

- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
- Thank you for joining the International Conference on Climate Change and Fragility today.
- As you all know, Japan was recently hit by heavy rain and floods and many people in western Japan suffered from devastating loss and damages. I would like to will express my sincere condolences to the bereaved families and all people affected by the disaster. As a statesman in the administration this disaster reinforces my conviction on the importance of addressing the challenges of climate change and fragility. With the presence of leading exerts and stakeholders both domestic and international, I hope that this conference would serve as an opportunity for participants on exchange ideas and share their knowledge on this important issue of climate change and fragility.
- Climate change is one of the most serious challenges that pose threats to global security and economic prosperity. In recent years, the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Working Group continuously focused on and discussed the nexus between climate risks and various issues including security.
- Following the agreement made in the G7 Hiroshima Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Japan has played a leading role in advancing discussions on

climate change and fragility with particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region. In January 2017, we organized a roundtable seminar in Tokyo attended by officials from G7 countries and experts worldwide and this seminar was the foundation for today's conference. In addition, in September 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a report on climate change and fragility, titled "Analysis and Proposal of Foreign Policies Regarding the Impact of Climate Change on Fragility in the Asia-Pacific Region - With focus on natural disasters in the Region-." It was presented as Japan's contribution to G7 meeting in Rome, Italy and COP23 in Bonn, Germany. This report focuses on the characteristics of the Asia-Pacific region, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world and is the area where the population is expected to grow continuously. At the same time, the region is vulnerable to natural disasters. In the report, we drew from most recent scientific data and analysis on the relation between the impact of climate change on natural disasters and the socioeconomic fragility of the region.

- In fact, many countries in the Asia-Pacific region have shown remarkable economic growth in recent years, according to a survey of the United Nations University, but at the same time, 12 countries among the top 20 countries of high-risk countries are exposed to the threat of global natural disaster risk. Amid progress in economic and social development, it is not always easy to take sufficient climate change countermeasures. These areas frequently suffer from natural disasters such as floods and it is pointed out that there is a marked tendency where climate change is increasing such fragility of the region a.
- Increase in such fragility indirectly caused by climate change, will lessen the stability of the local economic society. Currently, we see many transnational

issues taking place; depletion of resources such as water and food due to repeated large-scale disasters and extreme weather, refugees and internally displaced persons caused by such the depletion of resources. It is pointed out that the adverse effect of climate change such as global temperature rise and change of precipitation pattern is the primordial cause of these transnational challenges. Thus, climate change is not just a cause of instability of the regional economic society but is considered to be a security risk since it induces instability of political instability and regional situation.

- Decarbonization is progressing rapidly due to the expansion of the scale of renewable energy and the accompanying decline in cost. We are entering an era when business revitalization in climate change and decarbonization is an engine that will lead the world economic growth in the future. As business takes a lead in addressing climate change, the climate risk will be lessened and it will in turn stabilize the regional economic and political environment. This is the virtuous circle that we need to create and thus I think the role that the business could play in the field of climate change is essential.
- Meanwhile, as the climate change is focused and its risk becomes more visualized, social and economic impacts of climate change, business and financial sectors sometimes create variations beyond initial expectations and risk. In order to minimize these risks, the movement to set the risk of climate change as the core of management in business and investment is expanding internationally.
- As such, climate change is no longer limited to environmental problems, and it affects various fields such as security, business and investment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively working on diplomatic issues while fully considering climate change problems. Specifically, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established “Climate Diplomacy Task Force”, in order to

strengthen cross-sectoral approach within the ministry and to promote climate change diplomacy more actively and effectively, and we further strengthening cooperation with stakeholders of businesses and investments. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to pursue RE100 approval that aims for 100% use of renewable energy at the Ministry. Getting started where we can is important given that our Ministry shows a commitment for addressing climate change issues. We are also accelerating work towards formulating long-term strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to develop a new vision that brings about a virtuous circle of the environment and economic growth and encourages business-driven technological innovation.

- Japan will serve as the presidency of G20 in 2019, expecting that the Paris Agreement will be implemented in the next year, 2020. In order to give a strong message to address the climate change problems by the G20, we will lead the discussion to further enhance the high momentum on climate change in the international community.
- I would like to thank you again for your attendance today. I will conclude my opening remarks, hoping for active discussions on climate change and fragility in the Asia-Pacific region which will contribute to further enhancing the momentum for climate change issues in the international community. Thank you for listening.