

Statement by H.E. Mr. MATSUMOTO Hisashi
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)
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[5min/ approx. 405 words]

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am MATSUMOTO Hisashi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is an honour to represent on behalf of the government of Japan.

Today, the world faces an unprecedented complex of crises. These challenges demand urgent and united action. As we gather in Sevilla, let us respond with determination.

Since the first FfD in Monterrey and the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the world has changed dramatically.

Around the time of the first FfD conference, the concept of human security emerged, with Japan leading its promotion. Despite a changing global landscape, the principle of human security — focusing on individual, protecting people from threats,

and enabling them to reach their potential — remains vital.

Building on this principle, I would like to outline three priorities to address today's challenges.

First, self-help and solidarity. After World War II, Japan achieved reconstruction with international support, and later Japan became a major donor. Japan remains committed to its responsibilities as a member of the international community.

At the same time, to respond effectively to today's complex crises, each country should make its own efforts while engaging in cooperation with various actors. we foster a virtuous cycle in which former recipients become providers.

Second, we must mobilize both private and domestic resources. Private capital flows to developing countries have long exceeded ODA, and efforts to engage both domestic and international private actors have become increasingly important.

From this perspective, Japan has supported the foundation for domestic resource mobilization in developing countries. We have provided technical cooperation to improve legal and institutional frameworks, and to ensure their steady implementation in taxation and public finance.

Moreover, Japan expanded the financial instruments of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to facilitate businesses in developing countries.

Financing from all sources is more essential than ever.

Third, we must promote transparent and fair development finance, aligned with international rules and standards. Lending practices that ignore debt sustainability hinder lasting development.

It is essential to uphold transparent and fair rules and guidelines to preserve sustainability and ownership of recipient countries.

Excellencies,

Next month, we will host the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) in Yokohama, with African leaders. At the conference, let us discuss mobilizing more private finance to promote industrial development, job creation and sustainable growth in Africa.

In closing, Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to the SDGs under the concept of human security.

Thank you.