

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

At the outset of my statement, I would like to convey my profound admiration for the visionary initiative of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

Thirty years ago, in 1995, world leaders gathered in Copenhagen and pledged to place human at the center of development.

Since then, efforts have been made to realize this vision, which is also carried forward in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, the time remaining until the deadline for achieving the SDGs, which is 2030, is limited.

We now face a complex web of destabilizing factors, including social inequality, conflict, and climate change.

Now is the time for us to return to our founding principles and commit ourselves to realizing the vision of “leaving no one behind”.

We must overcome divisions and confrontations, and then

work together under the spirit of multilateralism toward our shared goals.

We need to promote unparalleled solidarity and cooperation in our pursuit of achieving the SDGs.

On this occasion focusing on social development, we must resolutely recommit ourselves to the timeless obligation of upholding human dignity — a principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Japan has long emphasized the concept of “human security,” which places the individual at the center and seeks to protect human dignity.

This concept also formed the foundation of the SDGs' core principle of “leaving no one behind.”

To realize a society where the dignity of every individual is respected, it is essential that we embrace human security as a guiding principle underpinning all efforts toward social development.

In July of this year, Japan presented its Voluntary National Review on the SDGs.

One of the key messages highlighted in the report is that Japan is a nation at the forefront of addressing social challenges such as a declining birthrate and aging population, natural disasters, and regional revitalization efforts.

We have turned these challenges into drivers of domestic growth.

Leveraging these profound experiences and insights, Japan has also been leading global efforts to help many developing countries address their social challenges.

For example, Japan has ardently championed Universal Health Coverage, diligently implemented disaster risk reduction initiatives in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and profoundly invested in the cultivation of human development through education.

In August this year, Japan hosted the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD 9, in Yokohama, Japan, and just last month, we successfully concluded the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

By utilizing these opportunities, we have gained valuable insights from various countries and exchanged knowledge and

experiences with them.

Furthermore, the new Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Ms. TAKAICHI Sanae, is firmly committed to advancing the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific as a cornerstone of Japan's foreign policy.

We will continue to refine and evolve this vision in response to the changing times.

Guided by this vision, Japan will work hand in hand with like-minded partners that share our fundamental values, as well as with the countries of the Global South.

Japan continues to address development and social challenges in the international community through co-creation, by sharing our expertise.

Japan is committed to upholding multilateralism under the principle of Human Security and to further strengthening solidarity and cooperation with other countries.

Thank you for your kind attention.