

**Statement by H.E. Dr. KUNIMITSU Ayano
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**

**At the General Debate of the United Nations
High-Level Political Forum**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

As the international community confronts multiple interconnected crises, stronger collaboration among all actors has become the defining imperative of our time. In this context, the theme of this year's HLPF could not be more relevant.

When the SDGs were adopted in 2015, I was serving in public health administration, and I found myself asking what kind of world we could leave for our children in 2030. Today, that milestone is a mere four years away. At next year's SDG Summit, we will begin in earnest to discuss sustainable development beyond 2030.

Mr. President,

To accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and discuss sustainable development beyond 2030, now is the time to harness collective wisdom of all actors. In this regard, Japan will advance its efforts under three key pillars.

First, we will strive to transform solutions to social challenges into engines for growth. By harnessing innovations across various fields, including AI, Japan will realize sustainable growth through social challenges.

Second, we will pursue an inclusive society in which “no one is left behind”. Guided by the long-standing principle of human security, we will enhance the well-being of all.

Third, we will share Japan's experiences as a frontrunner in addressing social challenges and promote co-creation. In last year's VNR, Japan highlighted its efforts to address challenges such as population decline and ageing, and disaster risk reduction. Building on this accumulated knowledge, Japan will work together with our partners to forge innovative solutions.

Mr. President,

Global challenges cannot be addressed without robust multilateral cooperation. Earlier this year, when the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination convened in Tokyo, Prime Minister Takaichi reaffirmed Japan's unwavering commitment to multilateralism.

Collaboration among stakeholders is also key to achieving a sustainable society. Building on the success of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, the GREEN×EXPO 2027 will open next March under the theme "Scenery of the Future for Happiness." By leveraging such opportunities, we will further strengthen partnerships with diverse stakeholders.

In conclusion, Japan is determined to engage with the international community and will seize every opportunity to advance the implementation of the SDGs and contribute to discussions beyond 2030.

I thank you.

(361 words)