

Statement by H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the First Meeting of the High-Level Political Forum
On Sustainable Development
September 24, 2013

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on today's launching of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

At Rio+20 last year, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to achieve sustainable development. This commitment should be substantiated through concrete international action. Japan will actively contribute to the Rio+20 follow-up processes based on the following three perspectives:

First, Japan will participate vigorously in the various follow-up processes within the international community. For example, at the moment, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals is the only ongoing intergovernmental negotiation to discuss the shape of development beyond 2015. We will contribute actively in this group under the principle of human security, to elaborate universal development goals.

Also at the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, we will emphasize the importance of focusing on not only ODA but also on various financial resources, such as domestic resources and private finance.

Second, we will steadily advance our support towards developing countries, based on our experiences.

With its technology, Japan has been promoting a more sustainable society, as shown in the fact that our resource productivity and the cyclical use rate of our resources have increased by 50% over the past ten years.

We have achieved this through various technologies and policies which we have been sharing with the international community such as: implementing energy-saving measures including the construction of highly efficient power distribution lines and transportation infrastructure; spreading renewable energy technologies such as geothermal power and wind power; and disaster risk reduction through such means as improving riparian

and shoreline infrastructure and introducing observation satellites. Our support towards developing countries in areas that are critical for sustainable development will remain unabated.

Third, Japan will play a leading role in expanding international networks.

In striving to ‘think globally and act locally’ in the context of sustainable development, we need to bring various stakeholders on board, including local citizens and companies, thus broadening partnerships.

With this intention, Japan will host an international conference next month in the City of Kitakyushu, where the municipal government, together with local businesses, has been enthusiastically promoting an environment friendly society. The conference will focus on the multifaceted nature of cities, comprising various areas such as energy and transportation, which are vital to create a sustainable city.

Furthermore, in order to boost education that will nurture individual who embody the capacity for sustainable development, we will host the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Okayama and Nagoya, in November 2014.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, our country reaffirmed the importance of establishing a resilient society. In March 2015, we will host the third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in the City of Sendai, a place that suffered immense damage from the earthquake. We would like to take this opportunity to share our experience, lessons learned and technologies with the world.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Millennium Development Goals will reach its deadline in 2015. This forum will be a compass to guide us toward 2015 and an engine to achieve sustainable development. Japan is determined to play its role in this forum so that member states will be able to identify the right direction and exert full strength.

Thank you.