

Speech by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Seiji KIHARA at the Fourth Voluntary Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

December 3, 2013

Thank you Chair, Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, Heads of Delegations, and Ladies and Gentleman,

First, let me express my sincere respect to all your efforts bringing remarkable achievements in the fight against three major infectious diseases. I appreciate the unprecedented results that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has made to save lives and to combat poverty over the decade.

I am delighted that I am able to attend today as a special envoy on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Prime Minister Abe made a pledge in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly in September that his mission is to contribute to the good of the world. Japan has positioned health as an indispensable field to embody the principle of human security, which means achieving a society where every individual should be protected and empowered to be free from fear and want. Universal Health Coverage is the concept that epitomizes this principle, and the promotion of equity and a people-centered approach that the Global Fund has also put emphasis on.

The Global Fund has overcome difficult challenges over the past few years, and has successfully attained organizational reform as well as evolved its funding model. It has worked to safeguard the world from infectious diseases, and we are now addressing the challenges of comprehensively implementing this effort facing people's health. The Global Fund is in a new stage. The new strategy demonstrates a strategic shift that reinforces its original philosophy.

I would like to note two key challenges facing the Global Fund. The first is value for money.

Japan supports the Global Fund that pursues a policy of value for money, by implementing programs that are consistent with countries' national health strategy, by allocating resources strategically, and by investing in high impact activities. Together with disease specific interventions, the Fund has strengthened the delivery of healthcare, not only through developing human resources, but also by establishing information systems to make effective use of limited resources.

The second is the national health account.

To improve the efficiency and predictability of its programs, the Global Fund has focused on the recipient countries' financing system by tracking the flows of health expenditure using a national health account system. This allows better resource allocation and more domestic financing. Emphasis has been put on monitoring and evaluation to make performance-based-funding properly function. Through these efforts, Japan hopes country ownership and governance will be further enhanced, and comprehensive and sustainable intervention will materialize. This will lead to true "Value for Money".

We are getting closer to our goal than we have ever been, and we must continue on this path. We should be encouraged by looking back on how far we have already come. And we support the efforts of the Global Fund, given the convincing achievement of saving 9 million lives so far.

In order to expand such efforts, I hereby announce that the Government of Japan will make contributions to the Global Fund amounting to 800 million US dollars in the coming years starting from 2014.

Let me conclude my speech by wishing further success for the Global Fund for years to come supported by the close partnership among donors, implementing countries, civil society and the private sector. Thank you.