

**Statement by Mr. Minoru Kiuchi  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**

**At the Third International Conference  
On Financing for Development**

14 July 2015, Addis Ababa

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

In this critical year of 2015, the joint international efforts towards sustainable development will culminate in the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, which will guide us through the next 15 years. This important conference in Addis Ababa is a crucial step in this global endeavor.

Today, the international community needs to tackle new challenges that have emerged in the past 15 years, such as growing inequalities within countries, while continuing to address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. This conference is expected to provide a solid policy framework for mobilizing the necessary resources and using them effectively to cope with all of these challenges.

In the last 15 years, we have witnessed significant changes in the landscape of financing for development. These changes include the expanding financial capabilities of emerging economies and middle income countries, and also the increase of private investment flow to developing countries. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report, the amount of private investment as an external source of development finance for developing and transition economies had reached 12 times that of ODA in 2012.

In this new context, we should unite our efforts to mobilize resources from all available sources, including from emerging economies and the private sector, and utilize them in the most effective manner. In order to do so, we must overcome the traditional north-south divide and work together to build a new global partnership, where all countries and stakeholders join forces and play their respective roles.

Mr. President,

With a view to addressing the new and continuing challenges of the post-2015 era, Japan is pursuing various initiatives to achieve quality growth, which we specifically mean inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth for all, and thereby to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. We do so based on the concept of human security as our guiding principle and by applying the new Development Cooperation Charter adopted this February. We are promoting wide-ranging partnerships with the private sector in the fields of finance, expertise and technology, while utilizing ODA as a catalyst to enhance such activities.

Let me share three concrete approaches that Japan will continue to pursue in this regard:

First, in order to achieve quality growth, Japan will take a leading role in promoting quality infrastructure investment, which is the first target under Goal 9 of the SDGs. Quality infrastructure projects, in our view, are those that are user and environment friendly, safe and disaster resilient, and cost-effective in the long run. Quality infrastructure investments are those that fully respect each country's development plan and enhance regional connectivity. Quality infrastructure cooperation creates jobs for local people and involves the transfer of technology and skills.

We will pursue quality as well as quantity of infrastructure investment in order to achieve sustainable development. Japan will promote quality infrastructure investment across the world in collaboration with international organizations. For example, in May, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, announced a new initiative entitled "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure: Investment for Asia's Future". Under this initiative, Japan, together with the Asian Development Bank, will provide Asia with innovative infrastructure financing amounting to 110 billion dollars in total over the next five years.

In Africa, Japan is steadily implementing its commitment announced at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD V) in 2013 to contribute to closing the continent's huge infrastructure gap. Japan will further promote quality infrastructure investment in Africa, in partnership with the private sector, through initiatives that promote cooperation in port development, road construction and electricity supply before the next TICAD, which will be held next year in Africa for the first time.

The second approach that Japan is pursuing relates to the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in development. In our financing strategy for sustainable development, the effective use of limited resources is of critical importance. We have seen everywhere in the world, including in Japan and most recently in Nepal, that natural disasters can wipe out the

achievements of decades of development in a matter of seconds. It is an indisputable fact that investing in disaster prevention and risk reduction is far less costly than responding after the disaster takes place. In post-disaster recovery and reconstruction as well, our efforts should focus on rebuilding societies and infrastructure better than they were before the disaster to mitigate future risk. I emphasized this concept of “Build Back Better” at the International Conference on Nepal’s Reconstruction held in Kathmandu last month.

I call upon the international community to further mainstream disaster risk reduction in development by implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted in March. Japan will spare no effort in sharing its expertise in DRR and in helping developing countries by delivering on the commitment we announced in Sendai, which includes 4 billion dollars of financial cooperation and the training of 40,000 officials and local leaders over four years. Furthermore, Japan is proposing to establish the 5th of November as “World Tsunami Day” to raise awareness globally of the risk of tsunamis. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your valuable support for this initiative.

My third and last point is on climate change. Between 2013 and 2014, Japan provided approximately 20 billion dollars from both public and private sources to developing countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In May, the Government of Japan and the Green Climate Fund signed an arrangement confirming Japan’s contribution of 1.5 billion dollars to the fund. I would like to emphasize the importance of the timely implementation of assistance to those countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, such as the Least Developed Countries, the Small Island Developing States and African countries.

Mr. President,

On a final note, I would like to reiterate our determination to continue to contribute actively and constructively to the negotiations, so that we achieve an agreement that will seal the success of this conference and that of the Summit in New York in September. Let me conclude my statement by calling upon all parties to join their efforts in the spirit of global partnership.

I thank you for your attention.

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