

**Closing Plenary Session of the AfT Global Review 2017
(13 July 2017)**

**Intervention by Mr. Tomochika Uyama, Deputy Director-General,
Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan**

1. Thank you, Chair. At the outset, let me congratulate the success of the Sixth Global Review of Aid for Trade.
2. This year's Global Review was held at a critical juncture for the following two ways:
 - (1) Firstly, it was held for the first time since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs are the common goals for the international community, and I believe that Aid for Trade serves for all of these Goals. It is because economic growth expands the resources of the country, and it ultimately becomes the necessary foundation for the enhancement of human security and the eradication of poverty and hunger.
 - (2) Secondly, it was held in the time of the rise in protectionism and skepticism about trade worldwide. In order to ensure that everyone, including SMEs, women and youths can reap the benefit of trade, and to realize "inclusive trade" which leaves no one behind, it is expected that Aid for Trade will continue to play its role.
3. Under such circumstances, it was timely to have "connectivity" as the theme of this year's Review. Through the three-day discussions, it was widely recognized that promoting trade facilitation and digital trade would contribute to improving connectivity. Also, we reaffirmed the importance of combining various elements such as hard infrastructure, human resource development, regulatory framework and gender empowerment.
4.
 - (1) Such a holistic approach is exactly what Japan has put in practice in its own Aid for Trade efforts. As the top donor country of Aid for Trade, Japan provided assistance amounting to more than 45 billion USD between 2006 and 2015. While economic infrastructure accounts for the large portion, we are providing comprehensive assistance including in the areas of productive capacity building as well as trade policy and regulations, in order to meet the needs of the recipient countries.

- (2) In this context, I would like to inform you that Japan has recently made additional contribution to the DDA Global Trust Fund. It is for the second time for us this year, and the total amount of Japan's contribution to the Fund in 2017 amounts to approximately 450,000 CHF.
- (3) Japan will continue to follow such a holistic approach and provide Aid for Trade to developing countries, including LDCs, through various initiatives such as High Quality Infrastructure, One-Stop Border Post and the One Village One Product movement. In Africa in particular, Japan will steadily implement the pledge announced by Prime Minister Abe at TICAD VI last year that Japan would provide a support of 30 billion USD including private investment. We hope this will help African countries pursue their strategic visions envisaged in Agenda 2063.
5. In this year's Global Review, it was also reaffirmed that mobilization of private resources including Foreign Direct Investment plays important roles in such areas as trade facilitation and digital trade, and that good investment environment through policy consistency and transparency is critical. In the end, efforts made by developing countries themselves are always the key. Japan hopes that the ownership by developing countries and the catalyst effect of Aid for Trade will create good synergies and lead to sustainable economic growth.