

Leaders Summit on Climate
Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening, everyone.

Joe, I am pleased to meet with you again. I would like to reiterate my deepest gratitude for your hospitality upon my visit at the White House just a week ago.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend your leadership for holding this important summit.

Extreme weather events such as torrential rains, forest fires and heavy snowfalls, are witnessed worldwide in recent years and climate change is said to be a major cause of such events. Addressing climate change and advancing decarbonization is hence an imminent challenge which the whole of humankind should aim to solve.

At the same time, our effort to address climate change is no longer a constraint on our economy. Rather, it will be the driving force of the long-term dynamic growth of, not only Japan's economy, but also the global economy. With this vision in mind, in the fall of last year, immediately after assuming the office of Prime Minister, I declared that Japan will aim for net-zero by 2050.

Japan will take a big step toward overcoming this global issue. Japan aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent in fiscal year 2030 from its fiscal year 2013 levels, setting an ambitious target which is aligned with the long-term goal of achieving net-zero by 2050. Furthermore, Japan will continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emission by 50 percent.

Such goal of 46 percent in reductions would mean that Japan will raise our current target by over 70 percent, and it will certainly not be an easy task. However, by defining a top-level ambitious target befitting to a next growth strategy of the nation which underpins manufacturing in the world, Japan is ready to demonstrate its leadership for world-wide decarbonization. From now on, we will accelerate our deliberations toward identifying policies and measures for meeting our goals.

In order to create a virtuous cycle of the economy and the environment and to realize robust growth toward our ambitious goal for 2030, the Government of Japan will work to maximize utilization of decarbonized power sources, such as renewable energy, and take incentive measures sufficient for inducing investment by companies.

The national and subnational governments of Japan will work together to aim for achieving decarbonization in more than 100 subnational regions across the country by 2030. Japan will also work for the realization of innovation that will enhance production and secure sustainability in food, agriculture and forestry sectors. Furthermore, Japan will advance the transition to a circular economy, thereby creating new industries and employment.

Japan will continue its efforts consistently in its challenge to meet the goals for 2030, and 2050.

Global decarbonization cannot be achieved through the efforts of one country alone; it is a challenge that requires the whole international community to act in one. We can create a surge of climate change measures globally, with ambitious targets presented, and implemented, by countries attending the Summit today which are responsible for around 80 percent of global emissions, thereby engaging with the whole world.

Joe, on the occasion of my recent visit to the United States last week, I had the pleasure to confirm with you, our commitment to lead the global decarbonization efforts. In more concrete terms, Joe and I launched “Japan-U.S. Climate Partnership on Ambition, Decarbonization, and Clean Energy.”

Based on this partnership, Japan and the United States will work to promote world-wide decarbonization and continue cooperation in each area of climate ambition and the implementation of the Paris Agreement; clean energy technologies and innovation; and accelerating transition of developing countries including Indo-Pacific countries to a decarbonized society.

In parallel with such bilateral efforts, Japan has provided public and private climate finance annually, amounting to approximately 1.3 trillion Japanese yen, which is equivalent to approximately 11.8 billion US dollars. We announced that we will make contributions of up to 3 billion US dollars to the Green Climate Fund. We will support the global transition to decarbonization by maximizing the use of Japan’s leading technologies in areas such as energy-efficiency, hydrogen and CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage). In the area of adaptation, Japan will promote international cooperation to address the impacts of climate change hitting vulnerable states in the world.

No other time than now, does international society need further solidarity for the realization of a decarbonized society. Japan, as a nation that puts utmost importance on multilateral approaches, is determined to take the lead in solving the challenge of climate change for the whole of humankind, by cooperating with each country and international organizations, looking ahead to COP 26 and beyond.

Thank you very much for your attention.