

**Keynote speech at the Alliance for Multilateralism “Sustainable food systems, central to our common agenda: climate, health, environment and the fight against inequalities”**

**by State Minister SUZUKI Takako  
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His Excellency Mr. Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France,

His Excellency Mr. Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, and Distinguished Guests,

First, I would like to congratulate the Alliance for Multilateralism on the timely holding of today’s meeting to address issues related to nutrition and food systems. The pandemic has exacerbated malnutrition and the number of people experiencing hunger has been increasing. The need to strengthen the sustainable food systems has therefore never been more pressing.

Around the world, one in every ten people suffers from hunger and undernutrition, while one in every three is overweight or obese. The entire world is faced with this double burden of malnutrition—where we see the co-existence of undernutrition that hinders growth, and overnutrition that causes nutrition-related non-communicable diseases. Accordingly, it is necessary to tackle nutritional challenges in both resource-limited countries and high-income countries.

Improving nutrition requires a comprehensive and holistic whole-of-society approach, covering not only the areas of health and agriculture, but also those of the environment, education, and gender. It is also important to involve all stakeholders on board, including governments, business, civil society, and academia. Japan can attest to the importance of this approach from its experience of overcoming serious malnutrition in the wake of World War II.

With this perspective in mind, the Government of Japan will host the

Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 on December 7th and 8th to move forward global measures to improve nutrition. This is an initiative called “Nutrition for Growth (N4G)” led by the host country of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

At the Tokyo N4G Summit, challenges we are facing as a common issue for resource-limited and high-income countries will be discussed in order to reduce the double burden of malnutrition. The discussion will take into account the impacts of COVID-19, and the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).

The Summit will focus on how to integrate nutrition into universal health coverage (UHC), how to build food systems that promote healthy diets and nutrition, and how to effectively address malnutrition in fragile and conflict-affected environments.

The most vital aspect of the Tokyo N4G Summit is for participants to announce their own ambitious commitments. I welcome your active participation in the Summit and announcements of financial and policy commitments for the cause of improving nutrition.

Through the Tokyo N4G Summit and other efforts, the Government of Japan will seek to ensure that “no one’s health is left behind,” including through achieving UHC, based on the concept of human security. I am confident that our intention is fully aligned with the spirit of the Alliance for Multilateralism.

Thank you for your attention.