

Remarks by State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan
ODAWARA Kiyoshi at the 12th Session of IRENA Assembly

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to deliver these remarks.

2021 was a year in which many countries committed to a high level of ambition toward achieving a decarbonized society. This growing momentum to accelerate energy transitions is thanks to the continuing efforts of IRENA under the leadership of Dr. La Camera. I would once again like to express my deepest appreciation to Dr. La Camera and his team.

Last year was also a year that brought to light many challenges that we must overcome. Surging global energy prices and frequent power outages in many countries highlighted the severe reality that, to ensure energy security, it is vital to pursue approaches specific to individual countries and regions while achieving energy transition.

While there is no single path toward decarbonization, Japan, in cooperation with IRENA, will encourage realistic global energy transitions by focusing on the following three initiatives.

First, when pursuing energy transitions, it is crucial to disseminate technologies and know-how to optimize the balance of domestic energy supply and demand in order to avoid problems such as power shortages as far as possible. Japan has particularly robust and considerably advanced technology for power system management at its disposal, and is one of the world's leading countries in terms of achieving a society with few power outages. Japan has been supporting power systems in Kenya and Jordan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA, and is committed to promoting such technologies for smooth energy transitions.

Second, progress must be made on utilization of fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia that contribute to decarbonization, and establishing an international supply chain for these fuels in order

to achieve a realistic energy transition that accounts for energy security. Japan would like to contribute to this field by collaborating with IRENA member countries.

Third, we need to ensure a truly sustainable path toward realizing a decarbonized society. To do so, efforts toward transparent and fair governance of critical mineral resource supply chains, which are essential for promoting renewable energy, will become increasingly important in the coming years.

IRENA's policy recommendations and Collaborative Framework, as well as the discussions among member countries, will contribute greatly to these efforts in these three areas.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the UAE for its strong support for IRENA's activities (in Arabic). 2022 will be another important year for IRENA and also marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the UAE.

To achieve our common goal, in close cooperation with the UAE and IRENA, we will continue to take the lead in various fields toward energy transition, including renewable energy technologies, renewable energy in the agricultural sector, and behavioral transformation to promote energy conservation.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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