

Statement by H.E.M. Satoshi Maeda,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the  
State of Qatar

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to the Government of Qatar for their efforts toward the success of this conference.

I would also like to express my deepest condolences to the victims of the earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria last month and pray for early recovery of those affected as well as reconstruction of the damaged areas.

From the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2011, international cooperation on global issues has been making progress, such as the adoption of SDGs and the Paris agreement coming into force.

On the other hand, people in vulnerable situations have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 and Russia's aggression against Ukraine. It is becoming more difficult to foresee steady development.

In such difficult situations, the Doha Programme of Action accurately identifies LDC's challenges, and set realistic targets for each of these challenges.

The adoption of the Doha Programme of Action is a sign of solidarity of the international community that aims to achieve the development of LDCs. Japan strongly supports its adoption.

As pointed out in the Doha Programme, LDCs are the source of the global growth. Japan is determined to strongly support LDCs' sustainable development based on the principle of human security.

In the field of global health, Japan has been providing approximately 5 billion US dollars in assistance for response to COVID-19 pandemic in developing countries, with a view to achieving universal health coverage (UHC).

In regard to climate change, Japan has committed to provide up to 70 billion US dollars both public and private over the 5 years from 2021 to 2025, including doubling assistance for adaptation in developing countries to approximately 14.8 billion US dollars. Japan has also pledged to a total of 3 billion US dollars to the Green Climate Fund.

In Africa, which accounts for the majority of LDCs, Japan has long supported the development led by Africa itself through the TICAD process. At the TICAD 8 last year, Japan, as "a partner growing together with Africa", announced its intention to invest a total of 30 billion US dollars, as the sum of public and private financial contribution over the next three years, focusing on "investment in people" and "quality of growth," in order to help realize a resilient and sustainable Africa.

In order to achieve "quality growth" of LDCs, it is highly important to form the foundation of growth, considering transparency, openness, economic efficiency and debt sustainability. Japan will promote "quality infrastructure investment" by utilizing its advanced technologies.

In addition, Japan will actively work for the achievement of SDGs, including environment issues, humanitarian crisis, refugees and displaced persons, while strengthening support for people in vulnerable situations who are facing food and energy crises.

A rules-based free and fair economic order is the foundation of growth and prosperity. In addition to "Aid for Trade," Japan continues to promote WTO reform as well as international rule-making, so that LDCs could properly enjoy the benefits of free and fair trade.

Furthermore, Japan will continue to promote data free flow with trust with a view to encouraging digital transformation that contributes to resolving development challenges. In addition, Japan is determined to play a central role in the global efforts, including WTO e-commerce negotiations.

At the same time, it is an urgent matter to develop economic autonomy and to strengthen their supply chains resilience. Japan will contribute to LDCs' economic security by strengthening cooperation on the development of relevant infrastructure and of legal systems, human resource development and others, including by strategically utilizing ODA.

"Investment in people," which is a key pillar of the Doha Programme of Action, is also a core of "New Form of Capitalism" that Prime Minister Kishida is pushing forward. Japan is determined to contribute to the growth of LDCs through its efforts to transform social challenges into the engine of growth.

In severe international situations, it is becoming more important to uphold the international order based on the rule of law and practical cooperation in various areas is urgently needed. In this regard, Japan will revise its Official Development Assistance Charter in the first half of this year and will promote development assistance that meets the demands of today.

Japan is committed to contribute to steady implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, through its efforts to fulfill responsibility as the G7 presidency and as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, by promoting assistance that meets demands of LDCs, while ensuring inclusiveness, transparency and fairness, in close collaboration with the international community.

Thank you for your attention.