

**Statement by Mr. AKIMOTO Masatoshi
Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the 79th session of the UN ESCAP**

Mr./Ms. Chair, Distinguished guests,

Allow me to express my congratulations on this 79th session of the UN ESCAP and our appreciation to those who contributed to the organization of this conference, in particular Executive Secretary Alisjahbana.

This year marks the halfway point in the effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda for SDGs. However, we are seeing significant delay in its progress, as the international community is facing complex crises.

In this context, it is extremely important and timely to convene this session on a theme of Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development.

Climate change is a critical issue that the international community together should address. We have reached the stage to implement steadily the Paris Agreement in order to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees. It is essential for the international community to cooperate in order to accelerate the global net-zero agenda.

Japan aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46% in fiscal year 2030 from 2013 levels and continue strong efforts to cut its emissions by 50% as an ambitious target in line with the net-zero emissions by 2050.

The world is facing a great challenge of ensuring stable energy supply and addressing climate change. However, our goal of 2050 net-zero target remains unchanged. It is crucial to overcome the current energy crisis and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, so that we realize the sustainable development and solve climate change on a global scale.

Sea level rise, floods, droughts caused by climate change are serious and urgent threats for Small Island Developing States. These issues are related to national security as well as human security.

Bearing this in mind, Japan will steadily implement its financial commitment of providing up to 70 billion US dollars both from public and private sector, over the 5 years from 2021 to 2025.

In addition, Japan actively supports developing countries including Small Island Developing States through financing programs such as Green Climate Fund. Japan also emphasizes support related to adaptation, and loss and damage. Recently, Japan also has contributed to the Adaptation Fund and the Global Shield Financing Facility.

With regard to Pacific Island countries, Japan has been providing continuous assistance, making use of its advantage and respecting their own agendas. Our support includes the construction of the Pacific Climate Change Center and provision of technical assistance and capacity building based on this center.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction are indivisible. Natural disasters occur frequently; their scale is intensifying year by year and the importance of disaster risk reduction is also increasing.

On the occasion of the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting, Japan, as the Chair, compiled the existing G7 support options in the G7 Inventory on Climate Disaster Risk Reduction, Response and Recovery. Japan will continue contributing actively to disaster risk reduction, by using its knowledge and technology developed through its own experiences of natural disasters.

Prime Minister Kishida recently announced Japan's New Plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" that focuses on "equal partnership" among nations with respect for diversity, and sets forth a principle of "Addressing Challenges in an Indo-Pacific Way" as one of the pillars.

Japan considers ESCAP as an important field to practically realize these concepts.

Global issues know no borders. The Asia-Pacific nations should take the lead to promote a model for cooperation to accelerate global initiatives. With this perspective, We are determined to continue making our contribution.

Thank you very much.

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