

5月15日(水)–16日(木) ICPD30 グローバルダイアログ  
「Demographic Diversity and Sustainable Development」  
穂坂外務大臣政務官挨拶

Your Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,  
Your Excellency Dr. Mohammad Hasan Mahmud, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh,  
Your Excellency Dr. Rokeya Sultana, the State Minister for Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh,  
Your Excellency Mr. Petko Draganov, Ambassador at large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Bulgaria, and  
Dr. Natalia Kanem, the Executive Director of UNFPA,  
Distinguished participants,

I am HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is my privilege to deliver an address representing the Government of Japan as well as the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP). It is a great honor for Japan to co-host today the ICPD30 Global Dialogue on “Demographic Diversity and Sustainable Development” together with UNFPA, the Governments of Bangladesh and Bulgaria. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to UNFPA for all its efforts in organizing the Global Dialogue and to the Government of Bangladesh for hosting this conference.

Global demographic change is closely linked to all development issues and has a great impact on the nature of the development. It is crucial for every country to accurately identify and forecast demographic changes for the achievement of sustainable development.

On the other hand, the world faces diverse demographic change. The world's population is expected to continue to grow, from over 8 billion today to approximately 10 billion in the 2080s.

In this context, high fertility continues in sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile, Asia and Latin American countries are dealing with how to take advantage of the demographic dividend, including youth empowerment and employment. Furthermore, low fertility and aging populations are increasingly evident not only in developed countries but also in emerging nations.

We also need to focus on such issues as international migration and the uneven distribution of populations. For instance, we need to address the challenges such as refugees, the international labor force and the supply of social services associated with the urban concentration of the populations.

On top of that, population growth or decline is not the only issue. From the viewpoints of human dignity and human rights, it is also critical to promote women's empowerment, including sexual and reproductive health and rights which enable women to make decisions regarding pregnancy and childbirth on their own. Furthermore, ensuring access to maternal and child health services, nutrition, and chronic disease control is also essential to improving the quality of life of each and every person.

In order to address diverse demographic issues, it is necessary to adhere to a basic perspective which embraces various relevant policies. At the core of this viewpoint is the notion of "human security". Japan defines "human security" as the guiding principle for development cooperation, and it has taken the leading role in promoting it in the international community. In other words, it is important to realize a world where vulnerable people can live safely and securely.

In addition, one of the most critical approaches to address various demographic issues lies in our efforts on global health. We need to work towards more resilient, equitable and sustainable “universal health coverage (UHC)” . Japan has long been at the forefront of mainstreaming UHC.

Japan has furthered its efforts in the field of “Population and Development” with the achievement of UHC in mind, and has also made financial contributions to UNFPA and other organizations. Based on its knowledge and experience, Japan has also promoted the importance of human security and UHC at international fora such as the UN General Assembly, World Health Assembly, G7, G20, and TICAD.

Distinguished participants,

Japan is keen to lead further dialogue on demographic diversity and sustainable development together with UNFPA and our other partners.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ICPD, I believe that this dialogue will be a great opportunity to discuss on the demographic landscape of a world with over 8 billion inhabitants as well as confirm the progress of the ICPD Program of Action.

Thank you very much.