

The sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Ministerial Round Table 3: 13 March, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

Mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: policies and strategies to end women's and girls' poverty

Statement by Ms. Asako Osaki, Representative of Japan

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to highlight our novel policies and international initiatives to realize gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

Since 2021, Japan has been annually formulating “the Basic Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women”, whose priorities are reflected in national basic economic and fiscal policies.

In addition, in recent years, Japan has been promoting the obligation of disclosure of employees' gender pay gaps and the paternity leave rate. The disclosure of employees' gender pay gaps has become an obligation since 2022 for private companies with over 300 regularly employed workers and public sectors.

The government also aims to address structural issues related to tax and social security system review and the improvement of compensation for care workers to

promote their economic independence.

On the other hand, women sometimes face complicated, diverse, and compound difficulties. To respond to such situations, “The Act on Support for Women Facing Difficulties” was enacted in 2022 to provide a welfare system to support them.

This Act assumes that women face higher risk of sexual exploitation and other problems than men, so it lays out comprehensive measures to respond to and support women facing difficulties.

Japan is also making efforts internationally to support women in poverty and their empowerment. We have been working through UN Women and other UN agencies for poverty eradication.

Furthermore, the Japan International Cooperation Agency started to issue gender bonds in 2021 to finance projects that contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

In developing countries, 70% of women-owned small and medium enterprises do not have access to adequate financial services to meet their needs. To address this situation, Japan is supporting women business owners to have equal access to finance and markets through The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

Mr. President, in closing, Japan wishes to highlight our strong support to the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

We will continue facilitating initiatives for the economic empowerment of women in conflict– and disaster–affected countries, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

Thank you very much.