

Statement by Mr. NAKAMURA Kazuhiko, Director-General for
Global Issues on High-Level Meeting on addressing the existential
threats posed by sea level rise
25 September 2024, Plenary Segment

I welcome that the issue of sea-level rise is taken as a stand-alone agenda at the UN General Assembly for the first time. Japan recognizes the impacts of climate change causing sea-level rise, floods, droughts and others are serious and urgent threats to the countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African countries.

The threats posed by sea-level-rise, such as the loss of territory, submergence, as well as floods and the loss of arable land, are not only national security issues but also human security issues, because they are threatening people's daily lives.

In our National Security Strategy approved in December 2022, we stated that climate change is a security issue that affects the very existence of humankind. It reaffirmed our policy to provide assistance to island nations and other countries that are vulnerable to climate change, so that sustainable and resilient economies and societies can be built.

Legal stability and predictability are of critical importance for SIDS and African coastal states, as they are exposed to various uncertainties due to sea-level rise associated with climate change.

Japan has stated the position that it is permissible to preserve the existing baselines and maritime zones established in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), notwithstanding the regression of coastlines caused by climate change.

In addressing climate change, Japan is steadily implementing its commitment to provide up to a total of 70 billion US dollars both in public and private sectors over the five years to 2025 and has pledged to make a new contribution of up to 165 billion Japanese yen for the second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In addition, Japan has already disbursed the pledged amount of 10 million US dollars for commencing the operationalization of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage.

Adding to climate finance, Japan has dispatched Japanese experts to relevant Ministries and Agencies in various countries, including the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa, to contribute to the capacity building of human resources. Japan also works together with the CARICOM Secretariat to develop the disaster management systems in CARICOM member states. For Pacific island countries, Japan will mobilize its technology, know-how and financial resources to strengthen its cooperation in climate change and natural disasters through All-Japan efforts under the Pacific Climate Resilience Initiative.

Japan will steadily implement these commitments while we stand beside countries that are vulnerable to the sea-level rise and work together to enhance resilience and support their energy transition and decarbonization.