

Statement by H.E Mr. SASAKI Hiroshi,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to Turkmenistan

Mr. President, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this highly important conference, which focuses on the development of Landlocked Developing Countries. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the government of Turkmenistan for their dedicated efforts in hosting this conference.

Turkmenistan is the memorable country holding the first National Day at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, and we would like to take this opportunity to renew our gratitude for the presence of His Excellency President Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

As the international situation is faced with growing uncertainty, energy and food crises, inflation, debt crises, and humanitarian crises are affecting many countries. People in vulnerable circumstances including those in landlocked developing countries, are hit especially hard, making it difficult for them to foresee stable development.

The Programme of Action to be adopted in this meeting identifies development challenges due to the constraints peculiar to LLDCs, and sets action targets for various stakeholders. We expect that it will be steadily implemented, following the discussions at this meeting.

Japan has been contributing to the steady implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action by promoting development cooperation that meets the needs of LLDCs under the concept of human security, which protects the lives and dignity of every human being.

LLDCs have economic hardships caused by their landlockedness, and Japan has contributed to facilitating logistics, correcting regional disparities, and revitalizing the economies of the recipient countries and neighboring countries by providing support to tackle these issues.

With regard to Africa, which accounts for the majority of LLDCs, Japan has assisted to regional integration and trade facilitation through infrastructure development in key regional corridors, as well as support for the development and functionalization of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) in 14 locations across 11 countries.

And also, Japan has been working for more than 30 years to support sustainable development of Africa, including through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process.

At TICAD9, to be held in Yokohama later this month, we aim to co-create solutions to challenges that lead to prosperity for both Japan and Africa, leveraging Japan's innovative technologies and expertise together with African countries.

Regarding Central Asia and the Caucasus, we are currently focusing on cooperation in soft areas such as improving customs capabilities, not only within the region but also to facilitate the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, which is a global supply chain connecting Asia and Europe.

In Southeast and East Asia as well, we are providing support through the development of airports and roads. In Laos, in addition to improving "physical connectivity" with neighboring countries, we are supporting the enhancement of "energy connectivity" to promote decarbonization of the region.

By pursuing such initiatives, Japan has been working with LLDCs, transit developing countries, and development partners, to address comprehensive trade facilitation by creating broader economic zones in both physical and non-physical aspects. We will continue to provide support in cooperation with other countries.

This plenary session marks the beginning of a new decade for a brighter future for LLDCs, and it has strengthened again our resolve to continue walking alongside LLDCs.

Japan will continue to contribute to further development of LLDCs in close collaboration with the international community. We will also promote support that is tailored to LLDCs by comprehensively utilizing a wide range of ODA to improve the lives of people in developing countries, and contribute to the steady implementation of the new Programme of Action.

Thank you very much for your attention.