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Agenda Item 8

General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition Statement by Japan

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Mr. Chair, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honor to address this distinguished assembly today. In my remarks, I will outline Japan's recent efforts in advancing the energy transition and share our perspectives on IRENA's pivotal role.

1. Assessment of the Current Situation and Japan's Basic Policy

The global energy landscape is currently undergoing profound transformations, which are creating growing uncertainties for our collective future. These significant shifts are driven by a confluence of critical factors, including:

- (1) The escalation of geopolitical tensions;
- (2) The increasing demand for electricity, propelled by advancements in Digital Transformation (DX) and Green Transformation (GX); and
- (3) The broadening of diverse and pragmatic approaches to addressing climate change.

Japan has been advocating for the significance of the following concepts across diverse international fora. Amidst escalating global uncertainties, we believe that the relevance of these notions has become increasingly critical.

Firstly, the concept of **“Triple Breakthrough,”** which entails the simultaneous pursuit of decarbonization, economic growth, and energy security. Secondly, the concept of **“Various and Realistic Pathways,”** whereby countries pursue pathways tailored to their specific circumstances, while striving towards the common goal of achieving net-zero emissions.

Against this backdrop, Japan, in February 2025, formulated its **7th Strategic Energy Plan.** This plan, in anticipation of Japan's electricity demand shifting to an increasing trend due to the advancements in Digital Transformation (DX) and Green Transformation (GX), set out key principles, including the achievement of a well-balanced power generation mix, thereby preventing over-reliance on specific power or fuel sources. Another principle is maximization

of the utilization of decarbonized energy sources, including renewable energy and nuclear energy.

2. Challenges in Global Renewable Energy and our Expectations for IRENA

Turning our attention to the global challenges, achieving the tripling target for renewable energy capacity requires a concerted worldwide effort. However, the current global renewable energy market is characterized by significant imbalances: **a geographical concentration** of renewable energy deployment in specific regions, and **a technological concentration** on variable renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind power.

To address **geographical concentration**, leveraging IRENA's broad network of over 170 member states, we expect IRENA to continue providing platforms for sharing knowledge and best practices with emerging and developing countries. Furthermore, we anticipate an expansion of the scope of these efforts, thereby accelerating renewable energy deployment in those countries. In this context, Japan supports the establishment of APRA under the auspices of IRENA, and continues to provide assistance through voluntary contributions

As for the **technological concentration**, we expect the collection of real-world market data on national initiatives and deployment status of system flexibility—a critical element for integrating variable renewable energy sources—as well as on innovative technologies, such as next-generation solar cells, advanced geothermal energy, Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES), and sustainable fuels. Leveraging this comprehensive information, we further expect IRENA to deliver insightful analysis and actionable recommendations. Moreover, in this regard, Japan also continues to support IRENA's research, analysis, and outreach activities through voluntary contributions.

3. Closing Remarks

Japan remains committed to working closely with IRENA and intends to contribute to a global energy transition that is both **practical** and **orderly**, including in the renewable energy sector, which falls under IRENA's mandate.

I thank you for your kind attention.