

Statement by H.E. Mr. Masakazu Hamachi
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the General Debate of
High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
19 July 2016

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Guided by the 2030 Agenda, we have embarked on a new collective journey for the next fifteen years. In order to transform the world into a sustainable one, leaving no one behind, we need to implement the Agenda steadily in a universal and inclusive manner.

To this end, this Forum is expected to play a central role through contributions by the various countries and stakeholders gathered today, both from within and without the United Nations system. On this point, I would like to express Japan's firm determination to contribute to the success of this Forum.

Mr. President,

Japan has been engaged vigorously in the formulation of the 2030 Agenda, and continues to exercise maximum efforts by taking further steps domestically and internationally.

Japan launched the SDGs Promotion Headquarters in our Cabinet this May. Headed by our Prime Minister and attended by all Ministers, this entity will serve as a control center to implement, monitor and review the efforts of our Government to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Headquarters are now formulating our SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, which will establish a vision, priority areas, specific policies and follow-up mechanisms to mobilize a wide range of policies and resources effectively and coherently.

Mr. President,

At the G7 Ise-shima Summit hosted by Japan this May, the first G7 Summit after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, leaders committed to take ambitious domestic actions and also support developing countries' efforts to implement the Agenda. They also developed their commitment to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth in various areas such as migration and refugees, trade, infrastructure, health, women, cyber, anti-corruption, climate change, energy and others.

Next month, Japan and African countries will convene the Sixth Tokyo International Conference for African Development, or TICAD VI, for the first time in Africa. I myself served as co-chair of the preparatory ministerial conference in Gambia just one month ago. To embody the 2030 Agenda on African soil, we are giving shape to specific contributions in close partnership with our African friends under three priority areas; namely, economic diversification and industrialization, resilient health systems and social stability.

Furthermore, the engagement of a broader set of stakeholders is essential for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Building on our efforts to date, such as a national-level stakeholders' meeting by the Ministry of the Environment, the Headquarters will further explore how to ensure enhanced partnership with broader stakeholders.

Mr. President,

Japan is also taking proactive steps to support the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda with initiatives across various sectors under the concept of human security. We are doing so by applying the Development Cooperation Charter, which we have already revised taking the SDGs into account, as a compass.

Take our efforts to promote quality infrastructure investment as an example. Japan took the lead at the G7 Ise-shima summit to introduce the "G7 Ise-shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment" in order to share five major principles with the international community. Moreover, as Japan's own commitment, we announced our initiative, "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure", which aims to provide around 200 billion US dollars over the next five years to infrastructure projects across the world.

We have also taken steps in the direction of global health, such as when Japan led the announcement of the "G7 Ise-shima Vision for Global Health". Additionally, Japan decided to provide support of around 1.1 billion US dollars to international health organizations.

On women and gender issues, we launched a new cooperation strategy and over the next three years, we will conduct a human resource development program for about 5,000 female officials and professionals and improve learning environments for about 50,000 female students.

To advance disaster risk reduction, Japan will steadily implement the Sendai Framework adopted last year, as well as the Sendai Cooperation Initiative as its own commitment. We will also promote Tsunami countermeasures and awareness-raising activities including those related to the designation of World Tsunami Awareness Day last year.

Furthermore, towards the stabilization of the Middle East, Japan will provide support in the amount of about 6 billion US dollars including human resource development programs for about 20,000 people over the next three years.

Apart from these sector-specific commitments, science, technology and innovation, or STI, is a key driving force to achieve a sustainable society. Our current Fifth National Science and Technology Basic Plan stipulates that we are to contribute to global sustainable development based on scientific evidence and through technological development. We will enhance our cooperation in this area in close partnership with academia and other STI communities, taking into account evolving efforts at the international level.

Mr. President,

To conclude, let me reiterate that this is only a current snapshot of Japan's ongoing efforts. I would like to emphasize our strong commitment to advance, monitor and review our efforts steadily in order to contribute to global implementation of the Agenda. I also hope that this Forum will be a valuable occasion to expand collaboration between the UN system and other international organizations such as the World Bank and the OECD.

I thank you for your attention.

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