

Statement by Dr. Yumiko Tanaka
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Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to you, your fellow Bureau members and all those involved in your dedicated efforts to organize this meeting.

Madam Chairperson,

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of adoption of the Beijing Declaration and platform for action and the 45th anniversary of the first World Conference on Women. With a view toward these important milestones, this year should be dedicated for tackling challenges still to be addressed and sharing results and lessons learnt for further progress in the future.

With a view to the upcoming G20 Osaka Summit, TICAD7 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, Japan has developed the SDGs Action Plan 2019 which contains the empowerment of women as one of the main pillars. By facilitating women's empowerment both domestically and internationally, we are resolved to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and realization of a society where no one is left behind.

As part of its domestic efforts, the Government of Japan is working towards further amplification of assistance for single-parent households and improvement in the working conditions of non-regular workers, as well as implementing numerous measures to expand childcare and nursing arrangements and to relieve parents' burden of educational expenses. Furthermore, in order to recognize, reduce and redistribute the

burden of unpaid work currently borne by women, we are taking a broad range of initiatives including an awareness raising campaign to facilitate men's participation in housework and child care, and publication of the monetary value of such unpaid work. In addition, aiming for the eradication of all forms of violence against women, the Government of Japan will promote measures for preventing sexual crimes and violence by stabilizing management of one-stop support centers for victims and survivors of such acts, strengthening measures against sexual harassment in the work place, and expanding support for victims and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.

Madam Chairperson,

As reflected in the priority theme of CSW63, ensuring access to safe and affordable public transportation is an essential element for encouraging women's empowerment. With assistance from Japan, the Delhi Metro project in India provides station facilities and carriages safe and accessible for female, elderly and disabled passengers. In Pakistan, Japan is contributing to improve women and children's access to education and health services, and to encourage their inclusion in economic activities by providing assistance to the introduction of bus vehicles for women and children only. In Nepal, we are encouraging women's participation in post-earthquake reconstruction, for example, by providing livelihood recovery and training to female masons for housing reconstruction as a non-conventional occupational opportunity. Japan will continue to make efforts to promote universal health coverage as well as providing assistance to education for women, children, youths and persons with disabilities, and education under armed conflicts and in the aftermath of natural disasters, as education is one of the priorities for the Japanese G20 Presidency.

I am pleased to announce that we will convene the fifth "World Assembly for Women: WAW!" on the 23rd and 24th of March in Tokyo, concurrently with Women20, one of the engagement groups of the G20. The grand theme for this year's WAW! is "WAW! for Diversity". The conference brings together leaders of various areas in the world and Japan to discuss a broad range of topics relating to women's empowerment, including innovation

and human resource development, diversity in companies, media, the future of the family, and women, peace and security.

Japan is resolved to continuously implement these series of measures towards the realization of gender equality and women's empowerment in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders who share this common goal.

Thank you very much.