

SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition
(temporary translation)

December 22, 2016
SDGs Promotion Headquarters
December 20, 2019
Partial Revision

1 Introduction

(1) Significance of the 2030 Agenda

In today's global economy where people, goods and capital move world-wide, global issues such as climate change, natural disasters and infectious diseases often occur across the border one after another, hampering economic growth and causing severe impacts on social issues such as poverty, inequality and health across the globe. Based on these circumstances, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the "2030 Agenda") was adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 and included Sustainable Development Goals (the "SDGs") listed as 17 goals, 169 targets, and 232 indicators. The "2030 Agenda" is an integrated effort to realise a more sustainable planet while harmonising economy, society, and environment, the three integral aspects of our world. The entire international community of both developed and developing countries should work together for these universal goals, eliminating poverty and inequality while making sure no one is left behind.

Accordingly, countries, including Japan, must work together to achieve the SDGs in their respective region and at the global level while making efforts to realise the 2030 Agenda within their country. With determination like never before, we must also accelerate global cooperation, working together with countries sharing common economic, social, and environmental, as well as cross-cutting challenges, and strengthen efforts to achieve the SDGs under the principle of international cooperation.

(2) Revision of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles

The SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles decided at the December 2016 meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters (the "Promotion Headquarters"), are a mid-to-long term national strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs in Japan and internationally by 2030.

The situation surrounding the SDGs has changed dramatically in the four years since its adoption in 2015 and the three years after the decision of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles in 2016. The international community currently faces new and increasingly serious challenges, it is all the more necessary to deliver tangible solutions and to accelerate economic and social transformation through system-level approaches and high impact efforts on global issues such as climate change, social division and instability caused by widening poverty and inequality.

Under these circumstances, the role of the SDGs in addressing various issues from three aspects - economic, social, and environmental - with integrated initiatives to realise a sustainable world, is more critical than ever. At the SDG Summit held in September 2019, Prime Minister Abe announced his resolution to further accelerate efforts in Japan and abroad

by the next SDG summit. Moreover, from the perspective of promoting SDGs, it is important to advance the contributions to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted in 2015, the 2015 Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Given the first revision to be conducted by the end of 2019 as was prescribed by the Implementation Guiding Principles, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles has been revised to reflect the latest developments and to give the direction for Japan's efforts, building upon the latest domestic and international trends regarding the SDGs.

Following the revised SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, relevant ministries and agencies under the Promotion Headquarters will work together in cooperative partnership with stakeholders in the respective field. Bearing in mind the target year of 2030, efforts to realise the SDGs in Japan and around the world will accelerate and expand substantive actions for the next four years.

2 Analysis of the Present Situation

(1) Japan's efforts to date

After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the government established the Promotion Headquarters (Chief: Prime Minister, Deputy Chief: Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Members: All Ministers) in May of 2016 and formulated the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles in December of 2016. Since December of 2017, the Headquarters regularly decided the SDGs Action Plan (the "Action Plan") which complies the government's key initiatives toward the achievement of the SDGs. To realise a society where "No one will be left behind," Japan has made every effort to achieve the SDGs based on the concept of "Human Security." Japan's "SDGs Model" detailed in the Action Plan promotes three pillars - "Promotion of Society 5.0 that corresponds to the SDGs," "Regional Revitalization driven by the SDGs," and "Empowerment of the next generation and women" – as the whole country works to realise the SDGs. Besides, various efforts to realize the SDGs throughout Japan, such as the establishment of platforms in cooperation with stakeholders, and the selection of "SDGs Future City," have been promoted.

To advance the SDGs, it is essential to create synergies between all parties under the Guiding Principles. This is carried out under the leadership of the government through the coordination and cooperation respective stakeholder and through linking the efforts of those who regard the SDGs as their agenda. From this perspective, the emphasis is placed on the publicity for the SDGs and raising awareness needs to be stressed to spread the SDGs across the country. Specifically, efforts have been made to "visualise" and support concrete actions on the SDGs through the Japan SDGs Award (from December 2017), the selection of "SDGs Future City" and "Local Government SDGs Model Projects" (from June 2018), and the installation of the "Japan SDGs Action Platform" (from June 2018). In the field of next-generation and education, as stated in the new National Curriculum Standards, which will be fully implemented in elementary schools from the fiscal year 2020 and in junior high schools from the fiscal year 2021, schools will be expected to educate each student as a builder of a sustainable society. Also, the "Japan Next-Generation Platform for promoting SDGs" was launched in December of

2018 and is working to accelerate the proactive promotion of SDGs by the next generation and disseminate Japan's SDGs Model regarding SDGs promotion by the next generation.

Furthermore, in international cooperation, Japan is contributing to the promotion of SDGs in developing countries by supporting solutions to various issues in the main SDG areas such as high-quality infrastructure, disaster risk reduction, marine plastic litter, climate change, women, health, education, and so on. In the international arena, Japan has various opportunities to disseminate its SDGs promotion initiatives as a stalwart supporter of the SDGs to the international community through the UN, the G 7, and the G20.

(2) Assessment of the Present Situation

Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, various stakeholders, including government, businesses, finance, civil society, consumers, the "New Public Commons" of local residents and NPOs, etc., labor unions, the next generation, educational institutions, research institutions, local governments, and parliament, have taken actions to achieve the SDGs on a world-wide scale and significant efforts are progressing. On the other hand, it is clear that the response to several issues is lagging behind, and Japan must share a sense of crisis across the country and make further efforts. At the SDG Summit held in September of 2019, the UN expressed the sense of crisis in its statement – "Efforts have progressed, but they are skewed and delayed in terms of achievements, we are far from where we need to be. We need a "Decade of Action" as we expand and accelerate our efforts now to achieve the SDGs by 2030."

The outcome document from the same summit, "SDG Summit Political Declaration," analysed the current situation as follows; "We have achieved progress in some areas, such as reducing extreme poverty and child and neonatal mortality as well as improving access to electricity and safe drinking water; however, solutions to problems related to hunger, gender equality, economic inequality, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, discharge of plastic litter into the ocean, climate change, and increasing disaster risk, are lagging behind."

In Japan as well, awareness of the SDGs is improving year by year, and now about one in four people know about them. Japan can be praised for its progressive initiatives in certain areas, but some studies point out areas in which stronger action must be taken.

For example, in a 2019 joint report by the Bertelsmann Foundation of Germany and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Japan was given high ratings for achievements on SDG4 (Quality Education) and SDG9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), but scores were low for SDG5 (Gender Equality), SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG13 (Climate Action), and SDG17 (Partnership). Looking at respective goals in a greater detail, there are still challenges on SDG1 (No Poverty), and SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities). In a 2019 report by the OECD, progress was shown compared with the OECD average in efforts toward SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG14 (Life Below Water). However, the evaluation found issues in the efforts on SDG5 (Gender Equality), SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and communities).

In August 2019, the government released Japan's achievement data of 125 SDG Global Indicators or more than 60% of all global indicators excluding those for which definitions and

calculation methods are not defined internationally (as of December 2019). Under the “Master Plan concerning the Development of Official Statistics,” the government will continue to work to expand the response to SDG Indicators.

On top of that, in the future, the government will base its understanding and progress evaluation of respective goal of the SDGs on data such as global indicators, and work to create a system which reflects these in policies.

While the multiple challenges stated above still exist, the growing movement of people working together, in Japan domestically and around the world, by connecting and helping one another in the face of frequent natural disasters and various social issues, brings hope for a sustainable society.

3 Vision and Priority Areas

(1) Vision

Regarding our efforts to implement the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda states the following:

“We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We resolve also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all.”

Japan’s sustainability is inseparable from the sustainability of the whole world. Based on that premise, Japan will continue to contribute to the world as a leading solution provider by sharing its successes and lessons learned in building a sustainable economy and society at home. While sharing Japan’s “SDGs Model” with countries across the world, Japan aims to become a role model of the world in the implementation of measures to achieve the SDGs and will make efforts both in Japan and in cooperation with other countries to achieve sustainable societies world-wide where no one will be left behind.

Japan envisions a 2030 society where all people are liberated from fear and want, where freedom to live with dignity is ensured, where resilience, diversity, and tolerance are defended, furthermore, a society which is environmentally friendly, rich and vibrant, without inequality, and where no one is left behind.

When implementing initiatives to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to be aware of the SDGs’ three aspects - economy, society, and environment – and their interconnectedness. Here again, we reaffirm the recognition that the 17 goals and their 169 targets are also united and integrated.

For the achievement of the SDGs by 2030, economic development and solutions to social issues, Japan continues to promote Society 5.0, a national strategy shared by the public and private sectors. Above all, Japan will strengthen efforts to tackle the urgent matter of climate change based on the 2°C target and the 1.5°C effort target in the Paris Agreement, while also working to maintain biodiversity and ecosystems with a sense of urgency.

(2) Priority Areas and SDGs Action Plan

Japan set the following eight priority areas for efforts toward the establishment of Japan's "SDGs Model" and in turn the attainment of the vision detailed above. Included in the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs are many issues which Japan must strive for international cooperation towards the achievement of the SDGs world-wide. It has been restructured to show what Japan should focus on among the SDGs' goals and targets and all priorities include both domestic implementation and international cooperation.

Additionally, the priority areas are clustered into the "Five Ps," upheld in the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. All SDGs and targets are indivisible and should, therefore, be attained in an integrated manner; similarly, the eight priority areas are strictly related and inseparable. Based on the recognition that the aforementioned national vision will not be achieved unless all the priority issues are successfully addressed, Japan will implement relevant measures under the priority areas in an integrated manner.

(People)

1 Realisation of gender equality and a society where every person can play an active role and gender equality

2 Achievement of Good health and longevity

(Prosperity)

3 Creating Growth Markets, Revitalization of Rural Areas, and Promoting Science Technology and Innovation

4 Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure

(Planet)

5 Energy Conservation and Renewable energy, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Countermeasures, Sound Material-Cycle Society

6 Conservation of biodiversity, forests, and oceans, and other environments

(Peace)

7 Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies

(Partnership)

8 Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs

Specific measures to promote each priority areas are detailed in the SDGs Action Plan formulated separately by the Promotion Headquarters. Based on the SDGs Guiding Principles, the SDGs Action Plan aims to organise specific government measures and their budgets while visualising the contribution to the SDGs through the implementation of each project to achieve the goals in the "8 Priority Areas" by 2030. The SDGs Action Plan is formulated by the Promotion Headquarters reflecting the opinions of stakeholders, including the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings. At present, Japan's "SDGs Model," which is based on the current Action Plan, is being promoted. This model includes three main pillars, "Business and Innovation," "Regional Revitalization," and "Empowerment of the Next Generations and Women."

Additionally, Japan will also promote gender equality as a cross-cutting issue which needs to be mainstreamed in addressing all of these issues.

Japan will implement the measures for the priority areas under the following principles, which are directly described in or derived from the 2030 Agenda. These principles should be taken into account in all priority areas in the course of implementation. The eight priority areas and the measures under them will be appraised based on the principles in the course of action, as well as in considering the necessity of new policies or revising ones.

(1) Universality

Japan will take the lead domestically and internationally to implement the 2030 Agenda fully. Domestic efforts have multifaceted effects that will help achieve international goals at the same time. Likewise, international cooperation is not merely a form of assistance abroad, but also has positive impacts on Japan's domestic prosperity. We should also note the significance of linking domestic measures with international cooperation to address individual priorities effectively.

(2) Inclusive Approach

The key phrase "no one will be left behind" encapsulates the philosophy that underpins the 2030 Agenda, calling for actions for all people, including children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. Japan will pay due attention to the most vulnerable individuals in all of its efforts, both domestic and those implemented through international cooperation. Also, the concept of human security will continue to be a guiding principle for Japan's development cooperation on the implementation of the SDGs. Furthermore, noting that sustainable development and sustaining peace are two sides of the same coin, Japan places human security as the guiding philosophy of SDG implementation and promotion of international cooperation and emphasises the concept of "nexus between humanity, development, and peace," which provides seamless support to protect each individual and strengthen their capacities.

Additionally, respect for human rights as a universally-accepted value in the international community, as well as realising gender equality and mainstreaming a gender perspective, are indispensable as cross-sectorial values in attaining all goals. They should be included and reflected in all measures. Japan will also steadily take steps to implement the Security Council Resolution 1325 and relevant resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), as requested by the United Nations Security Council. Those resolutions emphasise the importance of promoting women's participation in all peace and security efforts and decision-making process; protecting women and girls from sexual violence and gender-based violence; and gender mainstreaming in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction. In connection with the advancement of gender equality and mainstreaming of a gender perspective, well-developed gender statistics are crucially important, and efforts shall be made to collect as much gender-disaggregated data as possible in the implementation of the SDGs.

(3) Participatory Approach

In addition to ensuring that no vulnerable people will be left behind in any of the measures, the Government of Japan will foster a participatory approach in which all stakeholders play a role in our efforts to build a sustainable society.

(4) Integrated Approach

As emphasised in the 2030 Agenda, the goals and targets of the SDGs are indivisible, and their implementation should be carried out in an integrated manner. Accordingly, the Government of Japan will take an integrated approach to solve the issues related to the three dimensions of economy, society and the environment, while attaching importance to fostering interactions and synergies among various issues in each priority area. Measures shall be carried out in an integrated and organic manner, bearing in mind the significance of linking different priority areas.

(5) Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are essential in ensuring the participation of all stakeholders. The Government of Japan will, therefore, ensure high transparency in the implementation of its measures and will publicly disclose assessments on the progress made regularly to promote accountability. A list of concrete steps will be revised and updated based on the findings of these assessments.

5 Framework for Future Promotion

Based on the above analysis of the current situation, it is necessary to strengthen initiatives further while emphasising the continuity of initiatives rooted in the philosophy of “Human Security.” The first phase since the adoption of the SDGs has ended. From now on, it is necessary to accelerate effective and concrete actions to achieve goals in a sustainable manner while appropriately taking into account the “backcasting” approach, and thereby, to broaden such efforts.

(1) Mainstreaming the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda states, “Each government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies.” Accordingly, the Government of Japan and stakeholders will incorporate the SDGs into their plans, strategies and policies as much as possible.

To promote such initiatives, the government will continue to work on related system reforms, secure appropriate financial resources, and strengthen public relations and awareness-raising activities, as necessary.

(2) Governmental System

Bearing in mind cross-sectoral and cross-ministerial characteristic of SDGs implementation, the Promotion Headquarters, consisting of the Prime Minister as Chief, the Secretary-General and Minister of Foreign Affairs as Deputy Chiefs, and all Ministers as Members, will continue to act as the control tower in mainstreaming and promoting the SDGs.

Measures related to the promotion of SDGs cut across multiple sectors. For the government to demonstrate leadership not only within but also in partnerships with the private

sector, the function of the Promotion Headquarters as the control tower for promoting the SDGs must be strengthened to further improve the SDGs implementation system.

The Promotion Headquarters shall more actively utilise the SDGs Promotion Headquarters Administrative Meeting (the “Administrative Meeting”), SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting (the “Roundtable Meeting”), etc. to focus on the following matters in particular:

- Monitoring the progress of measures taken in line with the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles and review the Guiding Principles (Following-up and reviewing from the mid-to-long term perspective)
- Formulation, revision, and evaluation of effectiveness of the SDGs Action Plan based on the Implementation Guiding Principles
- Collection and analysis of data related to SDGs Global indicators, comprehension of progress, and based on that, evaluation of SDGs achievement
- Submission of Japan’s initiatives to international conferences including the UN, reflection of Japan’s position in discussions among the international community, and demonstration of leadership in identifying international challenges and providing solutions for them
- Strategic response to rule-making such as global initiatives and international standards related to SDGs in cooperation with the private sector
- Contribution to SDGs promotion in Japan and internationally, including in developing countries through Official Development Assistance (ODA) by JICA and others
- Publicity and awareness activities related to initiatives directed at the achievement of SDGs
- Promotion of opinion exchange, cooperation and collaboration between the broadest range of stakeholders possible through gatherings such as the Roundtable Meeting and Stakeholder Meeting.

In particular, the Roundtable Meeting, with the participation of prominent organisations and networks striving for the SDGs in the respective sector, shall continue to operate actively and flexibly in the future. That is because it plays a vital role as a place for various stakeholders to participate in planning and implementing SDG-related policies across sectors, regions, genders, and generations. Furthermore, the members of the Roundtable Meetings shall be re-examined more flexibly to enrich the Roundtable Meeting system and to reflect various stakeholders’ voices in an accurate and timely manner, by adding representatives from local government and “the New PublicCommons” which plays an essential role in embodying actions in each region.

Since the SDGs have been spread and promoted in a wide variety of sectors in the past four years, the frequency of the Administrative Meetings and the Roundtable Meeting shall be increased so that these meeting would contribute to substantive problem solution. Furthermore, strengthening the system, such as by holding task-specific Roundtable Meeting Subcommittees and relevant stakeholder meetings to address cross-cutting issues, shall also be considered.

The “Stakeholder Meeting for Revision of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles,” founded and held by voluntary members of the Roundtable Meeting on September 6, 2019,

was extremely useful from the perspective of widely gathering public views and expertise to achieve the SDGs, and as a result of the Meeting, the proposals for the revised Implementation Guiding Principles were submitted. Measures for holding similar stakeholder meetings shall be considered not only in Tokyo but in other regions, so that discussions on various issues to accumulate knowledge.

(3) Role of Major Stakeholders

The 2030 Agenda also states as follows:

“It is ‘we the peoples’ who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community—and all people.”

As described above, in order to implement measures for the 2030 Agenda, monitor progress, and conduct follow-up and review activities, the Government of Japan needs to promote cooperation with various stakeholders across agency boundaries, beyond walls between the central and local governments, and through public-private partnerships. Additionally, in response to specific social issues, it is necessary to appropriately consider the opinions of the parties concerned, based on the principles of inclusiveness and participation.

A. Business

It is important for each company to strive for sustainable corporate growth by installing the SDGs within its corporate strategy and applying them to individual business strategies. In addition, it is important to increase momentum, at home and abroad, for companies to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through various efforts, including their own core business, and through cooperation between the private and public sector.

For gender equality and the empowerment of women, Japan will encourage inclusiveness and fairness in the labor market.

The SDGs has been spread across the corporate management, especially in large companies, to a certain extent due to the increase in consumer awareness of the impact of corporate activities on global and social issues and the increase in ESG investment. However, the challenge is to further spread to small- and medium-sized companies, which account for 99.7% of all businesses. It is important for small- and medium-size companies, which support the local community and economy, to boost SDGs initiatives.

Initiatives related to business and human rights, responsible supply chains, and corporate social responsibilities, which enhance trusts in each company from the international community, are important for companies to gain high reputation from global investors. Those initiatives are essential for private sectors, the core of production and consumption, to contribute to the development of sustainable society, economy, and environment the SDGs aim for. Based on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the relevant ministries work together to address matters in an appropriate manner and promote companies’ initiatives that contribute to SDGs starting with the formulation of a National Action Plan.

B. Finance

In order to continually expand the financing base to secure funds needed to achieve the SDGs, it is important to incorporate initiatives for achieving the SDGs into economic activities in a variety of ways. It is necessary to effectively use and mobilise both public funding (public financial funds, etc.) and private funding (investment and lending) while expanding the amount and enhancing the quality of funds.

In order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to provide financial support for civil society organisations/private non-profit organisations among others, which advance solutions to social issues as creators of sustainable societies.

Since SDGs harmonise the three dimensions of sustainable development -- economy, society, and environment, it is important for the mobilisation of private funds in achieving the SDGs to accelerate the expansion of such finances as ESG finance -- which factors in the importance of environment, society and governance -- impact finance, social finance, SDG finance, and others -- which take into consideration of not only economic returns but also social returns, such as the issuance of JICA bonds as social bonds. In future, it will be necessary to disclose the information of these mechanisms and verify their effectiveness when supporting the expansion of ESG financing and putting these finances into practical use.

Additionally, financing to promote climate change measures and de-carbonisation is important. In recent years, companies are increasingly interested internationally in disclosing climate-related information based on the "TCFD Recommendations" announced in 2017 by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) installed at the request of the G20. In the future, it will be necessary to actively disclose corporate information based on the TCFD's way of thinking and promote the appropriate use of information disclosed by investors.

C. Civil Society

In order to realise a society where "no one will be left behind," civil society is expected to act as a bridge by bringing to the central and local governments the voices of people who are in severe difficulties or likely to be left behind and also sharing knowledges so that their voices can be reflected in the planning process of SDGs-related measures.

At the same time, utilising networks in the international community and within Japan, civil society is also expected to act as a promoter, bringing up and disseminating domestic and international issues, recommending policies, and driving actions to accelerate and expand the efforts for the promotion of the SDGs.

D. Consumers

Since production and consumption are inseparable, sustainable production and consumption should thus be fostered at the same time. Based on this understanding, the Government of Japan will encourage consumers and citizens to take voluntary initiatives as major players in the consumption arena.

In particular, from the perspective of SDG 12 (Production/Consumption), consumers shall contribute to build economic and social systems and to raise awareness as well as to create sound market by coordinating sustainable consumption activities such as contributing to the transition to a circular economy with a low environmental impact in order to consolidate sustainable production and consumption patterns.

E. New Public Commons

Currently, the “New Public Commons” – made up not of conventional government agencies but rather of local residents, NPO, and others – is actively solving familiar issues such as education and child-care, community planning, crime and disaster risk reduction, health care and welfare, consumer protection, and so on.

Starting with cooperatives, private entities including corporative associations, responsible for public activities with local residents participating in the spirit of mutual cooperation, are expected to contribute to the SDGs by building a humane society based on independence and symbiosis, rebuilding regional ties to solve the accumulated problems of respective region.

F. Labor Unions

Labor unions, as a vehicle for social dialogue, are expected to make important contributions to achieving decent work for all and building a sustainable economy and society by ensuring fair labor conditions, human rights, environment protection, safety, and peace both at the national and international levels, and by exercising mechanisms for collective employer-employee relationships. Additionally, labor unions are expected to contribute to achieving multiple goals, namely SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG5 (Gender Equality), SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG12 (Production/Consumption), SDG16 (Peace and Justice) in addition to SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), through securing proper work environments and labor conditions.

G. Next Generation

Young people of the next generation will be at the core of society in 2030 and thereafter and of the post SDGs discussion. While utilising the “Japan Next-Generation Platform for promoting SDGs” launched in December of 2018, from the year 2020, they are expected to: think about how to promote the SDGs and how to transform society when they become main players; act as builders of a sustainable society while cooperating with a variety of people; and propose and share ideas in Japan and around the world.

From this perspective, since the next generation is expected to contribute to a wide range of areas without being limited to specific goals, it is also important to enhance education policies and systems to enable young people with various backgrounds to contribute to the achievement of each goal, including SDG4 (Quality Education).

H. Educational Institutions

Education plays an important role in achieving SDG4 from the viewpoint of fostering “builders of a sustainable society,” utilising opportunities for education and learning in schools, local society, households, and other places. At the same time, by fostering “knowledge and

skills,” “ability to think, make judgements, and express themselves” and “motivation to learn, and humanity,” which are required for builders of a sustainable society, education also plays a very important role in contributing to the development of human resources in the form of people who can see regional and global issues as their own and think of solutions to them by themselves, laying the foundation for achieving all 17 of the SDGs.

Supporting the adoption by UNESCO and the UN of “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030),” the framework which contributes to the achievement of all the goals in the SDGs, the Government of Japan will contribute to the enhancement of activities in Japan and abroad. Within Japan, upon the revision of the National Curriculum Standards with the aim of fostering “builders of a sustainable society,” the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, which are the hubs for advancing ESD, shall be activated, at the same time promoting the creation of an environment where students can learn while connecting to various cultures as they support the SDGs, including social education related institutions.

I. Research Institutions

Needless to say, academic research and science, technology and innovation carried out by research institutions play important roles in and of themselves as tools for the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, they are also expected to contribute both domestically and internationally, used: as tools to understand the current situation such as earth observation; as a basis for setting goals; and for mutual target relationship analysis, achievement evaluation, and post SDGs discussions. Furthermore, based on these scientific grounds, research institutions are expected to lead to dramatic transformation of science, technology and innovation in the future.

Moreover, while innovation and transformation are keys to achieving goals, it is necessary to note that innovation should be treated as a broader concept that includes social changes rather than emphasising technical aspects only.

Sharing vision and information among scientists and citizens, businesses, and government is necessary to recognise that science, technology and innovation can play a significant role in achieving the SDGs and raise awareness of various issues and urgencies. Also the science community will foster cooperation and collaboration with broader stakeholders under international initiatives such as the Future Earth.

J. Local Governments

It is necessary to spread the SDGs widely throughout Japan in order to realise a society where “no one will be left behind” in Japan. To this end, it is indispensable to incorporate the SDGs into their strategies and policies as much as possible by local government, and further penetration and mainstreaming are expected.

Currently, regions of Japan are grappling with issues such as population decline and shrinking regional economy. The initiatives of local governments to achieve the SDGs are exactly what contribute to the resolution of these regional challenges, with local revitalisation driven by the SDGs expected to be promoted.

In addition to accelerating initiatives to achieve the SDGs, local governments are expected to proactively share, both domestically and abroad, excellent examples from each region. Specifically, local governments all over Japan are expected to make the declaration to voluntarily lead the SDG driven regional revitalisation, such the Declaration on “SDGs Japan Model” “and “SDGs All Japan Meeting.” At the same time, by holding national and international events, cooperation between and within nations, among regional blocks and between local governments aiming to solve common regional issues, are expected, leading to further initiatives to achieve the SDGs. Additionally, in the future, more local governments are expected to approach various stakeholders with the aim of further penetration of the SDGs.

For creating frameworks, local governments are expected to: promote the establishment of cross-departmental promotion organisations and the development of a system of administration; reflect SDG elements in various plans as reflections to a variety of plans; establish governance methods to manage progress; accurately measure SDG initiatives to disseminate information and share results; promote cooperation with stakeholders both in Japan and overseas; and set local indicators, among others. Additionally, they are expected to further promote the resolution of regional issues through the construction of a cooperative framework between regional level officials, citizens, and multiple stakeholders. Furthermore, they are expected to establish a registration/certification system for local business in order to create an Autonomous Virtuous Circle through “SDGs for Regional Revitalization Finance.”

Local governments are expected to promote the implementation of diverse and unique SDGs in local government such as creating a “Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere (Regional CES)” that forms a sustainable society by utilising local resources including culture, natural features, organisation/community, in addition to energy, natural resources, urban infrastructure and industrial agglomeration in each region.

K. Parliament

As stated in the 2030 Agenda, members of the Diet are deemed to play an integral role from the perspective of effective implementation and accountability. In order to realise a society where “no one will be left behind” in Japan, the Diet and local assemblies are expected to listen to the voices of citizens from all over Japan so that their voices are reflected in national and local government policies. Moreover, parliaments are expected to cooperate with administrative agencies, civil society, and international organisations and propose concrete policy options to solve social issues we face at both national and regional level.

(4) Public Relations/ Awareness Raising

Awareness of the SDGs is rising year by year and has improved significantly especially among people in their teens and twenties. However, according to some surveys, people who are not aware of the SDGs or who are aware of them but have not tied them to specific actions account for more than half the population. Therefore, it is important to improve awareness and promote, expand, and accelerate actions through further strengthening of public relations and awareness-raising activities.

Based on these points, in order to continue the implementation of the SDGs as a national movement, the Promotion Headquarters in cooperation with every stakeholder, shall actively consider and implement public relations and awareness-raising activities to improve

recognition, raise awareness and spread the SDGs all over Japan. Additionally, Japan will also work on public relations activities to disseminate Japan's initiatives globally, taking the opportunities of various international conferences in cooperation with international organisations and various stakeholders.

In 2020, there will be opportunities for global attention on Japan, including the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the Kyoto Congress) with the theme of advancing the rule of law; toward the achievement of the SDGs, the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, which will have a legacy of initiatives for sustainability, the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 in the health field which Japan particularly values, the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit, and the 2025 World Exposition (Osaka/ Kansai Expo). These events and other opportunities should be utilised as optimal occasions to disseminate to the world the philosophy of the SDGs and Japan's initiatives. In cooperation with domestic stakeholders and international organisations, Japan will work to share Japan's "SDGs Model" and mainstream the SDGs throughout the country. For the preparation, management, and procurement for these opportunities, it is also necessary to ensure due diligence related to the environment and human rights, based on the SDGs.

To expand the scope of the SDGs, it is necessary to cooperate with new fields, such as arts and culture. Moreover, to make the SDGs known in a way that is familiar and easy for the general public to understand, in addition to further utilising SNS and strengthening cooperation with various media, it is also necessary to try to make the vocabulary of the SDGs more intuitive and understandable. Furthermore, with consideration for busy teachers, it is extremely important to strengthen the cooperation between schools, communities and households, such as linking the educational needs of schools with organisations and companies interested in CSR, and to support the realisation of "Curriculum Open to Society."

Additionally, the "Japan SDGs Action Platform," an aggregated platform for the collection of information related to SDGs from related ministries, local governments and businesses established on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website shall enhance the content for further utilisation. The platform's function as an information hub shall be enhanced so that government related information will be easily accessible.

6 Follow-up and Review

In order to appropriately monitor the progress of SDGs-related measures in Japan and steadily promote them, the Promotion Headquarters, Administrative Meetings, and Roundtable Meeting shall regularly check the progress of the initiatives based on the Implementation Guiding Principles and the SDGs Action Plan, and make revisions as needed. At that time, a new mechanism shall be established as soon as possible to provide opportunities, such as stakeholder meetings, to reflect as many voices of stakeholders as possible.

To accurately gauge the achievement status of the SDGs, data based SDG indicators will be utilised and progress results will be disclosed internationally and domestically as appropriate. Moreover, progress evaluation systems shall be enhanced while improving transparency, paying due attention to evaluation by domestic and international research institutions and others, examination and revision status of global indicators, and the status of the examination of local indices, etc. In doing so, the regional effects of global issues and the global expansion of local initiatives shall be considered. Based on the evaluation of each

stakeholder, the Government of Japan shall also evaluate the progress of the SDGs to achieve goals in 2030; identify issues which are lagging behind; review policies; and promote stakeholder participation among others to accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs in Japan and all over the world by 2030.

The Government of Japan will proactively participate in and contribute to the global follow-up and review process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through participation in the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). For the HLPF's Voluntary National Review (VNR), periodic reviews will be conducted at the appropriate timing. The active implementation of Voluntary Local Review (VLR), in coordination with local governments, will also be encouraged. In addition, Japan will cooperate with the STI Forum and contribute to the formulation of the STI for SDGs roadmap implemented by the United Nations.

Review of the Implementation Guiding Principles will be carried out continuously at least every four years in accordance with the UN SDG summit cycle. At that time, the review will be conducted with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, just as revision of this Implementation Guiding Principle was.

(End of text)