

Revised Edition

SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles

December 19, 2023 SDGs Promotion Headquarters



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT  GOALS

SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition

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1. Purpose of the Revision

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the “2030 Agenda”), adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, is an agenda for global actions, in which the Sustainable Development Goals (the “SDGs”) are clearly stated as “universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike”.

Following the adoption of the SDGs, various activities and rule-making efforts have been conducted by a diverse range of stakeholders in Japan and abroad over the following eight years. In the process of these efforts, the nature of economic and social activities in the international community, including Japan, is undergoing rapid and significant transformation, from people’s awareness and lifestyles to industrial structures and financial flows.

At the same time, progress toward achieving the SDGs by 2030 faces great challenges, as the international community faces complex crises that were not envisioned when the Agenda 2030 was adopted, in addition to the worsening of global issues such as climate change and infectious diseases. Furthermore, the peaceful and stable international environment, which is necessary for the promotion of the SDGs, is itself being threatened by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and the escalating tension in the situation between Israel and Palestine, etc.

This situation strongly indicates the need for the international community as a whole, including Japan, to promote building and sustaining peace and sustainable development in an integrated manner under the principle of “human security”, which Japan advocates, and to strengthen the resilience of the international community against complex crises. Furthermore, in

order to promote such efforts continuously and ensure the sustainability of the international community, it has become more important to ensure the participation of multi-stakeholders, especially younger generations, in addition to government.

At the same time, the international community has not wavered in its primary aim to achieve the SDGs by 2030. At the SDG Summit in September 2023, the international community reaffirmed its strong commitment to accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs. During the Summit, Prime Minister KISHIDA emphasized the importance of "human dignity" and clearly expressed Japan's firm determination to lead the international community's efforts toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Against this backdrop, Japan is facing a declining birthrate, and with it a declining and aging population. In order to build a diverse and inclusive society and to achieve Japan's own sustainable development and prosperity, as well as to strengthen Japan's international competitiveness through the resolution of social issues by leveraging innovation, Japan must continue with strong determination to strengthen and accelerate its efforts to achieve the SDGs domestically, and to further contribute to the international community's efforts to achieve the SDGs in the most effective way. In light of the above purpose, the Government of Japan revises its SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles.

2. Current Situation

1 Highest level of awareness of the SDGs

In the eight years since the 2030 Agenda was adopted, public awareness of the SDGs in Japan has reached approximately 90%, and Japan's efforts to achieve the SDGs have also made significant progress. Today, the principle of sustainability is becoming an important driving force for Japan to achieve better sustainable development and prosperity.

First, the realization of a sustainable economy and society has been widely positioned as a core principle in strategies and policies in various fields at the national level. The "New Form of Capitalism" that Japan is promoting aims

to create a sustainable economic and social system in which "no one is left behind" through a "virtuous cycle of growth and distribution" in which efforts to solve social issues themselves become engines of growth, and broad-based growth and appropriate distribution create a mutually virtuous cycle. This New Form of Capitalism is precisely the approach that will lead to the achievement of the SDGs.

Second, the widespread promotion of the SDGs at the local level is a major characteristic of Japan. The SDGs have been positioned as a banner for regional development through the country. Under various institutional frameworks such as the "SDGs Future Cities", the "SDGs Public-Private Partnership Platform for Regional Development" and "SDGs Finance for Regional Development", various initiatives tailored to the characteristics of each region are rapidly progressing. 70% of local governments in Japan are now promoting their own initiatives to achieve the SDGs.

Third, within the business sector, including the financial market, the number of companies integrating the SDGs into their management has been steadily increasing in line with the growing interest in the sustainable economy and society. Economic organizations are also increasingly clarifying the direction in which they intend to realize the SDGs through their individual businesses, and there is a growing movement to contribute to the resolution of social issues through green transformation (GX), digital transformation(DX), and other initiatives.

Fourth, within private sector, including civil society, which has been involved in the promotion of the SDGs from an early stage, efforts to implement projects and various proposals toward achieving the SDGs are spreading widely among a wide range of stakeholders including non-profit organizations.

Fifth, sustainability has been positioned as one of the fundamental principles in Japan's international cooperation. Japan has made significant contributions to the promotion of the SDGs, especially in developing countries, through various forms of concrete assistance based on the principle of human security. It is clearly stated in Japan's Development Cooperation Charter approved by the Cabinet in June 2023 that Japan will lead "international cooperation through such as by accelerating initiatives to achieve the SDGs".

2 Challenges faced

At the same time, various challenges to achieve the SDGs have been pointed out. For example, the 2022 report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) points out that Japan has made progress in SDG 8 and SDG 9 compared to the average of OECD countries, while it faces challenges in SDG 5, SDG 10, and others.

In addition, the proposal to the government prepared by the non-governmental members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting following the Partnership Conference on this revision of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, which was held twice in 2022, states that in Japan's efforts to achieve the SDGs, emphasis is placed on those in the corporate and environmental sectors, while there remain challenges in social aspects such as poverty, gender and human rights. The proposal also points out the need for efforts to ensure equal opportunities for social participation and to collect and publish data disaggregated by various attributes.

Furthermore, the "Halfway to 2030: Japan SDG Local and Regional Report 2023", which was published by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), points out the differences among local governments, and states that while the overall level of achievement is high for SDG 8 and SDG 9, there are challenges for SDG 2 and SDG 5.

The 2030 Agenda clearly states that the 17 goals of the SDGs are "interrelated and call for integrated solutions" and that these characteristics are "of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the 2030 Agenda is realized".

From this perspective, Japan has traditionally regarded (i) universality (organic linkage between domestic implementation and international cooperation), (ii) inclusiveness ("no one is left behind"), (iii) participation (participation of stakeholders and others), (iv) integration (organic linkage and integrated solutions), and (v) transparency and accountability (regular evaluation and disclosure) as major principles in the implementation of the SDGs.

The above-mentioned challenges indicate that Japan is facing challenges, particularly with regard to (ii) inclusiveness and (iv) integration among the major principles.

3 Situation in the International Community

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, various efforts have been made in the international community based on the priorities, strategic directions, and specific circumstances of each country and each stakeholder. There has also been an acceleration in the movement to lead the formation of rules that cut across economic, social, and environmental fields, particularly in Europe. In the process, dynamic transformations are occurring not only in individual corporate and investment behavior, but also in industrial structures and financial practices at the international level.

At the same time, the international community is facing serious challenges to multilateralism and the free and open international order, in addition to the escalation of global challenges such as climate change and infectious diseases. Coupled with the food and energy crises, global inflation, and rising debt distress and humanitarian crises in developing countries, the international community is facing a complex crisis that was not envisioned when the Agenda 2030 was adopted. In addition, the rapid evolution of technology, including Artificial Intelligence, entails both important opportunities for advancing the SDGs, as well as serious risks that it could significantly delay achievement of the SDGs, depending on how it is used. This situation has a major impact on progress toward all goals of the SDGs.

At the SDG Summit in September 2023, the UN Secretary-General stressed that the international community's progress toward achieving the SDGs by 2030 is in a critical situation, with only about 15% of the SDG targets on track, nearly half insufficient, and about 30% stagnant or in reverse. The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR 2023), released at the Summit, expressed the same grim view.

The situation is more serious in many developing countries, which face slowing economic growth and widening domestic and international economic disparities since the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is also frequently pointed out that the gap in progress toward achieving the SDGs between high-income and low-income countries is widening, and the international community must address the shortfall of funds needed to meet a wide range of challenges, including the debt crisis in developing countries.

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes that the SDGs are "universal goals and targets which involve the entire world" and that "intensive global engagement" is necessary, "taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities". While each country is under pressure to respond to different challenges according to its own circumstances, in order to realize a sustainable world as a whole, it is more important than ever for each country, whether developed or developing, to solve its own problems in an integrated manner, and for the international community to promote change to achieve the SDGs in a comprehensive manner.

3. Implementation guideline

1 Priority areas

Japan will continue to strengthen and accelerate concrete efforts to achieve the SDGs at both national and international levels by 2030, taking into consideration the fundamental ideas of the "5 Ps¹" and "8 Priority Areas²" described in the previous Implementation Guiding Principles, and paying attention also to the interconnections among the goals, especially in the following priority areas:

(i) Establishment of sustainable economic and social systems

The 2030 Agenda states that SDG "targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies, and strategies", while emphasizing the voluntary action of each country. The Agenda recommends that each country set its own targets according to its specific circumstances.

¹ People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership as stated in the 2030 Agenda

² 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; 3. Creating Growth Markets, Revitalization of Rural Areas, and Promoting Science Technology and Innovation; 4. Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure; 5. Energy Efficiency and Renewable energy, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Countermeasures, Sound Material-Cycle Society; 6. Conservation of biodiversity, forests, and oceans, and other environments; 7. Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies; and 8. Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs

Japan is committed to the "New Form of Capitalism" and aims to realize sustainable growth and the establishment of an economic and social structure that enables people to feel secure and happy through efforts to solve various economic and social issues as well as global-scale challenges, while also utilizing scientific and technological innovation. In particular, Japan will also promote decent work for all people.

In the transformation to a new industrial structure through "investment in people" and promotion of GX, DX, etc., we will expand public-private partnership investment and promote economic and social reforms, while promoting dialogue and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, taking into account the perspective of a just transition. In this context, the government will strengthen its support for companies and social entrepreneurs that enhance their business potential through solutions to social issues and others, as well as for various private-sector entities engaged in public activities, including the promotion of impact investment and ESG investment.

In addition, in regional areas, the government will more strongly support efforts for sustainable growth through the "SDGs for Regional Development", "SDGs Future Cities", "SDGs model projects for wide-area cooperation", and the Community-based Integrated Care System. Moreover, based on the "Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation(DIGIDEN)", the government will work for the balanced development of the country through the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure and service levels.

(ii) Realization of an inclusive society where "no one is left behind"

From the perspective of building sustainable economic and social systems, there is an urgent need to realize an inclusive society where "no one is left behind," including vulnerable groups. In addition, it is also necessary to take appropriate measures for those who may be left behind in the process of transformation of economic and social systems.

Through such efforts as drastically strengthening measures for children based on General Principles for Child-Related Measures, revitalizing high-quality public education, realizing a virtuous cycle of women's success and economic growth, including accelerating the promotion of women, creating

an inclusive society of harmonious coexistence and mutual assistance, and strengthening national and local measures against loneliness and isolation based on the “Law to Promote Measures to Prevent Loneliness and Isolation”, Japan aims to avoid social fragmentation caused by the expansion and fixation of poverty and inequality and prevent the persistent and increasing number of people who are lonely and isolated. In addition, Japan will continue to steadily implement the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and promote respect for human rights in the context of business activities, including in supply chains. Moreover, the government will promote efforts in accordance with the “Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities” and the “Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals”.

Furthermore, in order to continuously accelerate efforts to build sustainable economic and social systems into the future, the government will work to expand the meaningful participation of younger generations and expand opportunities for them to learn about sustainable economic and social systems through educational opportunities.

In advancing such efforts, as emphasized in previous Implementation Guiding Principles, the government will pay close attention to the fact that respect for human rights and gender equality should be realized across all goals. In addition, the government will continue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with all domestic stakeholders (the expected roles of each stakeholder are shown in the Appendix).

(iii) Strengthen efforts to address major global issues

To overcome the “Triple Planetary Crisis”, which comprises climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, the government will accelerate the transition to a net-zero, recycling-oriented, climate-resilient and nature-positive economic and social system. The key to this is an integrated approach and simultaneous resolution of economic and social issues. The government will work toward the realization of the Circular and Ecological Economy in which regions continue to resolve issues through the sustainable use of local resources and network with and support each other.

In the area of climate change, it is necessary to strengthen concerted efforts by the international community. Japan will lead the decarbonization of the Asian region through continued efforts to achieve the FY 2030 target consistent with the 1.5 °C goal, efforts under Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), and other initiatives. In addition, through contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Japan will support efforts to decarbonize developing countries and strengthen the resilience of countries vulnerable to climate change. Japan will strengthen energy security, including a shift to a resilient energy supply and demand structure, while taking decarbonization initiatives. Japan will strengthen food security by establishing food systems in harmony with the environment.

In order to cope with natural disasters, which are becoming more frequent around the world as a result of climate change, Japan will share its knowledge in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and accelerate the promotion of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030”, including by promoting the concept of “Build-Back-Better” (BBB) in disaster-affected areas, both domestically and internationally.

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, Japan will steadily implement the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” and promote the efforts of the G7 Alliance on Nature Positive Economies. In so doing, Japan aims to avoid trade-offs between addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, global deforestation, and other issues, and maximize synergies in each specific initiative in order to achieve integrated solutions. Furthermore, scientific findings such as the GSDR2023 and reports by the expert group on the synergies between climate change and the SDGs will be utilized.

In addition, Japan will expand green finance, strengthen efforts to foster international understanding of transition finance, and promote the development and establishment of financial instruments that combine public and private financing.

In the area of global health, Japan will promote initiatives under the “Global Health Strategy”, which aims to develop and strengthen prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) for future health emergencies in Japan and abroad, accelerate efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC),

and contribute to developing and strengthening global health architecture. In addition, the Impact Investment Initiative for Global Health (Triple I for GH) will be promoted to facilitate private resource mobilization in global health.

In promoting the abovementioned efforts, the government will pay close attention to the interconnectedness of individual global issues, taking into account the "planetary health" concept that climate change and biodiversity are interrelated to human health.

(iv) Cooperation and collaboration with the international community

Ensuring sustainability in the international community and achieving sustainable development for all nations are two sides of the same coin. Every country, whether developed or developing, faces different challenges according to its own circumstances, and it is therefore necessary to expand cooperation based on solidarity among countries in order to ensure the sustainability of the international community as a whole. From this perspective, Japan will strengthen its contribution to the comprehensive achievement of sustainability in the international community, while clarifying the characteristics and strengths of its own initiatives.

In so doing, Japan will take a leading role in efforts to formulate relevant international rules and regulations, including international standards, in cooperation with the public and private sectors. The government will also contribute to the formulation of new international legal instruments in such areas as the environment and global health. Japan will also contribute to the creation of a new system of international governance, including for Artificial Intelligence. From this perspective, the government will work to strengthen its presence in international organizations that play an important role in rule-making, including cooperation with the UN and other international organizations, and to increase the number of Japanese staff in international organizations.

In the current era with its compound crises, there is a need to resolve issues through "co-creation" among various actors. Development cooperation for developing countries is a major means that contributes to achievement of sustainability of the international community that Japan is a part of. Based on

the Development Cooperation Charter, multilateral and bilateral development cooperation will be implemented effectively, strategically, and appropriately, in an integrated manner. In addition, Japan will further promote efforts to collaborate with various actors, including private companies, international organizations, and civil society, and to mobilize new funding. Being mindful of the internationally-agreed target of increasing ODA to 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) and fully recognizing Japan's extremely severe fiscal situation, Japan will expand its ODA in various ways and make necessary efforts to enhance the foundation for the implementation of development cooperation

From the perspective of strengthening the resilience of the international community against compound crises, Japan will promote GX and DX, securing supply chains and "quality infrastructure", and aim to achieve "quality growth" in all fields. In particular, we will promote cooperation in the field of DRR, taking into account the aforementioned "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030," and initiatives utilizing Japan's knowledge and technology, such as human resource development to improve public health and medical standards, including maternal and child health care and response to infectious diseases.

In addition, with a view to promoting "investment in people," Japan will continue to strongly promote efforts in the education sector to ensure quality education for all, including strengthening the capacities of women, youth, and children, and securing educational opportunities in times of conflict and disaster.

Furthermore, based on the "National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)", efforts to promote the WPS agenda will be strengthened. The government will also focus on assistance to more vulnerable countries and communities that are often left behind, as well as poverty reduction, strengthening of basic social services, and emergency humanitarian assistance.

(v) Sustaining peace and promoting sustainable development in an integrated manner

The realization of a peaceful and stable international environment is an

indispensable prerequisite for promoting efforts to ensure the sustainability of the international community. In this regard, the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus) approach is becoming increasingly important.

In order for the international community as a whole to realize "human dignity" as clearly stated in the UN Charter, overcome divisions and conflicts in the international community, and realize sustainability for all in a peaceful and stable international environment, Japan will continue to contribute to the international community, including the various efforts mentioned above. In the event of multiple humanitarian crises, Japan will provide assistance based on humanitarian principles and strongly appeal to the international community to comply with international humanitarian law.

The principle of "human security," which Japan strongly advocates, is based on the three pillars: (i) protection of the individual, (ii) empowerment of the individual, and (iii) solidarity among various actors. Human security is a key concept in ensuring the HDP Nexus. Japan will continue to promote development cooperation with a focus on "human dignity" while keeping in mind the HDP Nexus under the principle of human security, and will also actively contribute to securing peace and prosperity in the international community.

2 Efforts for implementation

In order to steadily implement the abovementioned matters, the following actions will be taken:

(i) Strengthening Implementation Structures and Coordination among Stakeholders

The SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister, with the Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of Foreign Affairs as deputy heads and all cabinet ministers as members, will continue to play the role of a control tower. The SDGs Promotion Headquarters will further accelerate efforts by actively utilizing the SDGs Promotion Headquarters Executive Committee and the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting, etc. At the local level, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters will also work with local governments to promote

initiatives through the promotion of “SDGs Future Cities” and other initiatives.

In implementing the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, the government will assume a leading role while encouraging the proactive participation of diverse sectors, and accelerate change by linking individual efforts to the whole, facilitating coordination and cooperation with each other, thereby paving the way to achieving the SDGs in an integrated manner. From this perspective, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, with the participation of government ministries and agencies, will play an even more effective role as a hub for coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, while constantly reviewing its implementation structure.

In addition, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters will regularly check the progress of actions based on the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, and review the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles every four years or as needed.

In promoting the abovementioned efforts, the government will continue to expand the response to the SDG Global Indicators in accordance with the “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics”, to monitor and evaluate progress based on data from the said indicators and other sources, and to reflect this progress in government policies. In addition, Japan will actively engage in international discussions on the medium- and long-term status of the indicators.

(ii) Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and Leading Efforts in the International Community

Japan will conduct a Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2025. At that time, Japan will disseminate information to the international community how Japan is promoting and leading efforts to ensure the sustainability of the international community. While reviewing the progress of the SDGs in Japan, a cross-cutting review will also be conducted, as necessary, from the perspective that the SDGs as a whole are integral and indivisible, particularly with regard to the transversal issues common to each goal.

In so doing, the Government will take full account of the need to monitor progress on the implementation of SDGs based on scientific evidence and

to align our domestic and international efforts to achieve the SDGs, providing relevant best practices to the international community. Through such efforts, Japan is set to constructively engage and partake in international discussions with a view to shaping 2030 and beyond.

In addition, Japan will strengthen cooperation with local governments and encourage them to actively conduct Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

(iii) Publicity and awareness-raising activities

As already mentioned, public awareness of the SDGs in Japan has improved significantly compared to the international community, and publicity and awareness-raising activities to date have been highly effective. On the other hand, there are concerns about issues such as greenwashing, where initiatives do not align basic principles, and a lack of understanding of the SDGs.

From the perspective of promoting the establishment of sustainable economic and social systems, in addition to the awareness and efforts of individuals, the Government will continue to review and selectively strengthen publicity and awareness-raising, taking into account that the efforts of local authorities, the media, the private sector, and non-profit organizations, are becoming increasingly important.

The government will also continue to work on deepening understanding of international cooperation from a strategic perspective, given the growing expectations from the entire international community for Japan's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. In addition to domestic publicity and awareness-raising activities, in order to contribute to the important matters set out in 3. (1), the government will also make best use of opportunities such as the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan to strengthen Japan's dissemination of information to the international community.

As the Japan SDGs Awards is considered to have fulfilled its policy significance at the time of its establishment, the future of the Japan SDGs Award will be discussed separately.

Expected Roles of Each Stakeholder

1 Business

It is important for companies to place the SDGs in their management strategies and incorporate them into their individual business strategies in order to achieve sustainable corporate growth, and in particular, to achieve "Society 5.0". Specifically, it is important to solve social issues and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, "leaving no one behind," by utilizing innovative digital technologies and big data to meet the different needs of each individual and to optimize the entire social system. Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which account for 99.7% of all enterprises in Japan, are the backbone of local communities and economies, and it is important to further disseminate the SDGs to SMEs and encourage their efforts. In addition, collaboration among various stakeholders and co-creation of diverse values are expected to foster momentum toward achieving the SDGs both domestically and internationally.

Initiatives related to climate change and other global environmental issues, the realization of decent work, "business and human rights," responsible supply chains, and corporate social responsibility are indispensable to the creation of a sustainable economy, society, and environment, which the SDGs aim to achieve, and will help each company increase trust from the international community and to gain a high reputation among global investors.

2 Finance

In order to link the SDGs to social transformation, it is essential to direct a flow of funds to make this possible. In order to expand the base of financing for sustainable development both quantitatively and qualitatively, it is important to support efforts to achieve the SDGs from the financial side in a variety of ways through the effective use of public-sector funds (fiscal funds, etc.) and private-sector funds (investments, loans, etc.).

The importance of private-sector funds, especially in the areas of climate change and global health, has been strongly pointed out. Accordingly, the flow of funds for resolving social and environmental issues in Japan and

abroad, such as impact investment and ESG investment, will be strengthened. Regarding climate change response, the government will support transition finance, the importance of which was confirmed at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023. Impact investment for sustainable financing, including in global health, will also be promoted.

The business sector plays a particularly important role in achieving the SDGs, and it is necessary to enhance sustainability disclosures by companies in order to encourage constructive dialogue between investors, companies, and other stakeholder to sustainably increase corporate value over the medium to long terms.

In addition, in order to further promote local ingenuity in promoting the SDGs, improve the productivity of local industries and companies, and achieve the sustainable growth of local economies, financial institutions should be encouraged to provide a variety of services that contribute to solving various issues at the sub-national level. Furthermore, it is important for financial service providers to offer appropriate products and promote financial and economic education so that financial efforts to achieve the SDGs will lead to stable asset formation by households.

3 Civil Society

In order to realize a society in which "no one is left behind," civil society represents the voices of people who face difficult circumstances and who are most often left behind due to their particular vulnerabilities or experiences of marginalization in dialogues with national and local governments, businesses, and other entities. Civil society also plays an indispensable role in sharing knowledge and supporting policy planning and implementation to solve social issues. Civil society is expected to act as a bridge to ensure that the voices of vulnerable and marginalized people are reflected in the planning process for SDG-related measures.

At the same time, civil society organizations expected to utilize their networks in the international community and in Japan to raise awareness of and communicate issues, make policy proposals, and promote actions to accelerate and expand the promotion of the SDGs both domestically and internationally.

Civil society, including NGOs, is expanding its presence in humanitarian assistance and other development cooperation around the world, not only domestically but also in the implementation of international cooperation, through prompt cooperation that is attuned to local needs.

Civil society is expected to be a flag-bearer for change and transformation by encouraging the participation of people domestically and abroad and in various regions, and by working in solidarity with various actors.

4 Consumers

Recognizing that production and consumption are inseparable, and that sustainable production and consumption need to be promoted together, it is important to promote the proactive efforts of consumers and citizens, who play a major role in consumption activities, by promoting ethical consumption and awareness of such issues as food loss and waste reduction.

In particular, from the perspective of SDG12, it is important to promote awareness-raising and the creation of economic and social mechanisms, in addition to the realization of sound markets, so that consumers can contribute to sustainable forms of production and consumption by engaging in sustainable consumption activities, such as contributing to the transition to a circular economy through purchasing products and using services that have low environmental impact.

5 Private-Sector Entities Engaged in Public Activities

Local citizens, non-profit organizations and public interest corporations are active in solving familiar issues such as education and childcare, community development, crime and disaster prevention, medical care and welfare, and consumer protection, while continuing to propose new values to society, and their activities are expected to continue to expand.

Cooperatives and other private-sector entities that engage in public activities in which local citizens participate in the spirit of mutual aid are expected to contribute to the SDGs by building a humane society based on self-reliance and symbiosis, and revitalizing regional ties, in order to resolve the issues that are piling up in each region.

6 Labor Unions

As bearers of social dialogue, Labour Unions, together with employers, are expected to make important contributions to (i) the realization of decent work, (ii) respect for human rights throughout the supply chain from a “business and human rights” perspective, and (iii) building a sustainable economy and society. They will do so through national and international efforts that range from ensuring fair labor conditions through collective employer-employee relations (i.e., constructive employer-employee relations) to the establishment of workers’ rights, human rights, environment, safety, peace and others.

Labor Unions are special stakeholders in corporate activities, and are expected to continue to actively engage in lobbying employers and collaborating with other stakeholders toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Efforts by Labor Unions to ensure decent workplaces and working conditions are expected to contribute to the achievement of not only SDG 8 but also SDGs 1, 5, 10, 13, and 16.

7 Gender

The 2030 Agenda clearly states that “gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets” and further states that “mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is crucial”. Women and girls are strongly expected to play active roles in the promotion of the SDGs in cooperation with various stakeholders.

It is also important that diverse stakeholders share a gender perspective in their efforts to achieve all goals of the SDGs, including protection of human rights, realization of gender equality, and empowerment of women and girls.

8 Youth

Youth are at the core of discussions on the 2030 Agenda and the state of society after 2030. As “creators of a sustainable society,” youth are expected to think about how to promote the SDGs and transform society, take action in collaboration with diverse stakeholders, and make concrete proposals, and disseminate information domestically and internationally. From this perspective, the “Platform for Promoting of SDGs by the Next Generation”

was launched in December 2018, and youth representatives have been participating in the the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting since 2021 in order to more actively incorporate the voices of the younger generation.

It is also important to improve policies and systems for education to ensure that youth from different backgrounds can contribute to the achievement of Goal 4 and other goals.

9 Educational Institutions

Educational Institutions play 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 communities, households, and other places. At the same time, by fostering “knowledge and skills,” the “abilities to think, make judgements, and express themselves,” and “motivation to learn, and humanity”, which are required for builders of a sustainable society, education institutions also play 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 issues and devise innovative solutions, understand and respect human rights for oneself and others, and lay the foundation for achieving all the goals in the SDGs.

In this regard, Japan strongly supports UNESCO’s “Education for Sustainable Development: towards the achievement of the SDGs (ESD for 2030)” framework, which indicates that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) will contribute to the achievement of all 17 SDGs. Under this framework, educational institutions are expected to contribute to sustainable development activities at both the national and international levels. In response to the revision of the Revised National Curriculum Standards, it is also important to promote courses of study on the SDGs in all schools and to create conducive environments for learning that teach learners respect human rights and human diversity and equip them the skills, attitudes and knowledge necessary to contribute to sustainable development and a peaceful and harmonious international community.

10 Research Institutions

Academic research and science, technology and innovation by research institutions can, of course, play a major role as a means to achieve the SDGs, but they can also be used as tools for understanding the current state of the world, such as earth observation, and as a basis for setting targets, analyzing the relationship between targets, evaluating achievement, and contributing to the post-2030 agenda. They are also expected to make a contribution to the discussion of the SDGs, both domestically and internationally.

Moreover, research institutes are expected to realize a dramatic transformation of future science, technology and innovation based on scientific evidence. It should be noted that although innovation and transformation are key to achieving the SDGs, they should be treated as a broader concept that includes social aspects, rather than focusing solely on technological aspects.

Sharing visions and information between civil society, businesses, governments, and scientists is necessary to recognize roles that science, technology and innovation can play as means to achieve the SDGs, and to raise awareness of various issues and urgency. It is also important for the scientific community to cooperate and collaborate with a wide range of other stakeholders under international initiatives such as Future Earth, and for research institutions and policy-makers to further collaborate.

11 Local Governments

It is necessary to spread the SDGs widely throughout Japan in order to realize a society where “no one will be left behind”. To this end, active efforts by local governments and stakeholders operating in each region of the country are essential and should be further mainstreamed.

Currently, several regions in Japan are grappling with challenges such as population decline and shrinking regional economies. The initiatives of local governments to achieve the SDGs can contribute to the resolution of these regional challenges. Local revitalization is therefore expected to be driven by the promotion of the SDGs.

In addition to accelerating initiatives to achieve the SDGs, local governments are expected to proactively share, both domestically and abroad, lessons

learned and best practices from each region. Specifically, local governments all over Japan are expected to make declarations to voluntarily lead SDG-driven regional revitalization, such the “Declaration on the SDGs Japan Model” and the “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 promoting whole-of-society approaches to achieve the SDGs.

By creating regional frameworks, local governments are expected to promote the establishment of cross-departmental promotion organizations and systems of administration; reflect SDGs elements in various local development plans; establish governance methods to manage progress; accurately measure SDG initiatives and 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 cooperative frameworks between regional level officials, citizens, and multiple stakeholders. Furthermore, they are expected to establish registration/certification systems for local business in order to create an autonomous virtuous cycle through “SDGs for Regional Revitalization Finance.”

In addition, local governments are expected to create self-reliant regions that continue to solve regional issues through continuous creation of enterprises that improve economy, society, and environment integratively through the sustainable use of local resources, based on local initiatives, and to form networks of mutual support among regions by making best use of each region’s unique characteristics. At the same time, local governments are expected to promote the implementation of diverse and unique SDGs initiatives, such as “the Circular and Ecological Economy” that aims to realize a self-resilient and decentralized society in which communities support each other by taking advantage of the individuality of each region.

12 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 realize 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 interests and concerns are reflected in national and local government policies. Moreover, parliamentarians are expected to cooperate with administrative agencies, civil society, and international organizations to propose concrete policy options to solve social issues at both national and regional levels.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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