

# ***JAPAN***

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**ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review 2007  
“Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through  
the global partnership for development”**

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan offers its congratulations to the Council on the inauguration of the Annual Ministerial Review. My delegation stands ready to contribute to the continuing efforts to strengthen the Council, and we will actively participate in the discussions during this substantive session.

## **1. Human Security**

When we look at the world today, we see that while the proportion of people living on one dollar a day or less has declined overall, the disparities among regions are growing. Poverty is one of the root causes of conflicts, organized crimes and other threats to human life. Since the end of the Cold War, as economic activities have expanded and globalization has progressed, the international community has come to face new threats to people's lives and livelihoods, such as terrorism, environmental degradation, infectious diseases and global warming.

In order to eliminate the disparities and cope with new threats, we must protect individuals and empower them to make choices and act on their own. This is the essence of the concept of human security.

## **2. Japan's Policy Initiatives**

The MDGs and other development goals cannot be achieved without both close partnerships between donor and recipient countries and a commitment to national ownership on the part of developing countries. Japan's cooperation with development partners and U.N. organizations is based on the concept of human security.

There is no panacea for the world's problems, and neither financial nor food assistance alone can provide lasting solutions to poverty and hunger. Instead of addressing these challenges individually, we must take a holistic, human-centered approach to all of the threats to human life, one that seeks to protect and build the capacity of individuals and communities.

Japan will host both the G8 summit and the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) IV, in 2008, the year which also marks the MDG midpoint. Although there are many issues that we should address in a comprehensive manner from the viewpoint of human security, including health, education, and conflict, I would like to focus today on climate change and infectious diseases, which have captured the attention of the world recently.

## **3. Climate Change**

Climate change is a challenge that humankind must face united. All countries therefore must reduce emissions in order to mitigate global warming itself. Japan has carried out assistance related to mitigation and adaptation. In May of this year, Prime Minister Abe announced a new proposal on climate change called "Cool Earth 50." In this proposal, he proposed a long-term target of reducing global emissions by half from the current level by 2050. He also proposed the following three principles for establishing an international framework beyond 2012 (Abe's Three Principles):

- ☐ All major emitters must participate in a post-Kyoto framework, thus moving beyond the Kyoto Protocol, leading to global reduction of emissions.
- ☐ The framework must be flexible and diverse, and taking into consideration the circumstances of each country.
- ☐ The framework must achieve compatibility between environmental protection and economic growth by utilizing energy conservation and other technologies.

Prime Minister Abe also proposed establishing a new financial mechanism to support developing countries committed to combating global warming.

Developing countries are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, such as water shortages and stronger and more frequent natural disasters. International cooperation is indispensable for enhancing the capacity of developing countries to adapt to changes in their environments. This is also important in terms of sustainable development. Japan would like to explore pro-active cooperation measures on mitigation, adaptation and access to clean energy.

#### **4. Infectious Diseases**

Approximately six million people die every year of three major infectious diseases: HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. In order to combat infectious diseases, predictable funding mechanisms are crucial. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, an example of an effective public-private partnerships, traces its origins back to the 2000 Okinawa Summit, when G8 leaders, at the initiative of Japan, took up the issue of infectious diseases for the first time. Japan also has already contributed a total of \$660 million to the Global Fund, and reaffirms its commitment to the Fund.

Japan is implementing the comprehensive assistance under the "Health and Development Initiative" which intends to provide assistance amounting to \$5 billion between 2005 and 2009 and disbursed \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2005. Japan believes that it is important not only to focus on disease-specific assistance but to strengthen the foundation of a country's health sector by improving health systems, training healthcare practitioners, and prioritizing child and maternal health and gender issues. Let me give just one example of how we are putting this into practice. Mother-and-child health notebooks, which are pocket-sized ledgers that have been used by mothers in Japan for years to keep track of their children's height, weight, immunization history, and other vital information, have been distributed in Indonesia, where they have contributed to a decline in infant mortality.

To prevent malaria, Japan is distributing ten million long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets in Africa. As of May of this year, 8.4 million nets have been distributed; according to one estimate by UNICEF, they will prevent the death of 160,000 African children by malaria. These nets, which are now widely used around the world, were developed by a Japanese company. That company has built a factory in Tanzania with loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, creating more than 1200 local jobs and boosting the local economy. This is a good

example of how the alliance of private sector technology and public funding can contribute to development.

Japan is also strengthening collaboration between its own bilateral assistance and that conducted by the United Nations. With the worldwide eradication of polio now in sight, Japan is striving for an early victory in African continent by actively cooperating with the WHO at the policy level and with UNICEF at the operational level, and conducting strategic distributions of polio vaccine.

## **5. Africa**

I would now like to discuss Africa, which is struggling to overcome poverty, hunger, conflict, infectious disease and other problems, and is lagging behind other regions in its progress towards achieving the MDGs.

At the Asian-African Summit in April 2005, then Prime Minister Koizumi announced that Japan would double its ODA to Africa in the three years beginning 2005. Since then, Japan has made steady progress toward this goal.

The TICAD process has been the cornerstone of Japan's active cooperation with Africa. Priorities at TICAD IV are "Boosting Economic Growth," "Ensuring Human Security," and "Addressing Environmental Issues and Climate Change." Under the basic theme "Towards a vibrant Africa," Japan hopes that TICAD IV will provide an important opportunity to mobilize international support for Africa.

Lastly, Mr. President, at this first meeting of the strengthened ECOSOC, I would like to reaffirm Japan's commitment to working actively in resolving international economic and social issues, especially in the areas of poverty reduction and development. As you are aware, Japan assumed the chairmanship of the Organization Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission last month, a duty that we take very seriously. In all of its undertakings, Japan will strive to contribute to the efforts in addressing priority issues in peacebuilding activities.

Thank you very much.