

Statement by the Delegation of Japan  
(Droughts)

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Climate change is expected to increase the severity of droughts. Policies to improve drought preparedness need to be developed and subsequently adopted. Mitigating pressure on land is necessary through the introduction of appropriate agricultural practices. Tree planting directly contributes to the recovery of degraded soil. Creating new sources of income other than agriculture or other land-based industries is also important for improving people's adaptability. I would like to point out interlinkages between droughts, desertification and land degradation. In this sense, utilization of existing fora, especially UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) would bring about a synergy effect.

Madam Chair,

Drought is one of the world's natural disasters. So measures for disaster risk reduction can be applied in order to reduce the negative impact of droughts. First, we need to systematically integrate drought risk reduction measures into sustainable development and poverty eradication programs, including specific actions for its implementation. Accumulation of more accurate scientific data is also critical for allowing enhanced evaluation of risks and superior prediction of drought occurrences. Finally, as developing countries are most vulnerable to droughts, international cooperation in this field should be further strengthened.

Thank you, Madam Chair,