



## *Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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(Check Against Delivery)

Statement by Ambassador Jun Yamazaki  
Delegation of Japan  
“High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development”  
7 December 2011

Mr. Vice-President,

(MDGs)

While the world faces a multitude of pressing development challenges, Japan attaches the highest importance to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In order to achieve them by the target date of 2015, the global community must demonstrate clear political will and work together with all stakeholders to accelerate efforts to deliver concrete results on the ground.

In this regard, and to keep momentum from the UN High-level Plenary Meeting on MDGs last year, the Government of Japan hosted the MDGs Follow-up Meeting in Tokyo in June this year, which was attended by many stakeholders including 110 countries. Furthermore, during the General Debate in the General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Noda reiterated Japan's unshaken commitment to the MDGs, focusing in particular on health and education. And in the same week, Foreign Minister Gamba, together with other Member States and international organizations, hosted a ministerial-level event in which approximately 400 participants engaged in fruitful discussions about important concepts such as equity and human security, and shared useful information about concrete methods being used on the ground to advance achievement of the MDGs.

During the above-mentioned meetings, we also initiated discussions on the international development agenda beyond 2015. Japan looks forward to actively making a useful contribution to the so-called Post-MDGs by providing useful venues for discussions among stakeholders as well as by participating in important discussions in various fora in the run-up to 2015.

(Development assistance)

Mr. Vice-President,

Financing for development has long been an essential tool to attain one of the fundamental aims of the United Nations; namely the promotion of social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. Therefore, even in the current global economic uncertainty and financial unrest, donor countries should stay firm with regard to the commitments they have made to provide assistance.

At the same time, we must keep in mind that financing is not an end in itself but one of means for realizing development. Therefore, we need to be results-oriented, paying more attention to the outcomes rather than the inputs, and also to effective delivery of resources to meet development needs. Because many donor countries are suffering from severe fiscal constraints, aid-effectiveness based on the principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability is now more critical than ever.

For these reasons, Japan welcomes the fact that ODA on a global scale increased in 2010 and Japan's ODA also increased by 11.8% in 2010. Despite the challenges that Japan faces in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March this year, Japan remains dedicated to faithfully implementing all the international commitments —both in terms of quality and quantity— that we made before the earthquake.

Furthermore, during the General Debate in the General Assembly this year, Prime Minister Noda declared that Japan will host the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development or TICAD V in 2013. While Japan is on track delivering the pledges made at TICAD IV in 2008, such as doubling its ODA to Africa and assisting in the doubling of Japan's FDI to Africa, Japan is focusing on how to best translate increased aid into concrete results and actual improvement in the lives of African people. Regarding support for developing countries in order to address climate change, Japan has already provided assistance amounting to 12.5 billion U.S. dollars out of the 15 billion dollars pledged for fast-start finance up to next year, and will continue to give support beyond 2012.

The responsibility for development, as the Monterrey Consensus in 2002 reminds us, is shared by both developed and developing countries, and by both the private and public sectors. This "spirit of Monterrey" is all the more important now, when all stakeholders, including emerging economies, international organizations, foundations, corporations, civil society and academia must work in partnership towards development through sustained inclusive and equitable economic growth.

In this regard, South-South and triangular cooperation has been seen as an indispensable means of international development cooperation. Japan has actively engaged in triangular cooperation and now maintains partnership programs with 12 developing countries. Japan's history of foreign assistance began in 1954, when it was still an aid recipient itself. That fact shows why South-South cooperation has profound significance for Japan. The rhetorical difference between solidarity and aid-effectiveness should not prevent us from moving forward with concrete actions on South-South and triangular cooperation.

Just to introduce one concrete example, Japan has contributed to the transformation of Brazil's savanna region, called the Cerrado, into a major agricultural area. Based on this experience, Japan, Brazil, and Mozambique are now promoting agricultural development in the tropical savanna region of Mozambique.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate the fruitful interactions of all stakeholders in development cooperation, the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which was adopted at Busan HLF-4 last week, established a framework for development cooperation that embraces traditional donors, emerging economies, private sector including civil society, the private sector, foundations and other actors. We welcome that at Busan we agreed the common set of principles that underpin all forms of development cooperation. My delegation firmly believes that this historical agreement should be embedded in the discussions we have at the UN.

Finally with regard to development assistance; in order to mobilize a wide range of resources to meet the demand for global development, innovative sources of development finance have been significantly complementing and adding to the traditional sources. In this regard, Japan hopes that the international debate on innovative financing could be further enhanced and such modality could be used to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs and other international development goals.

Mr Vice-President,

I would also like to touch upon other major areas of the Monterrey Consensus.

(Trade)

Expansion of trade is a strong engine for development, and therefore Japan has been active in enhancing Aid-for-Trade-related measures since the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Conference including trade-related ODA, which amounts to 22 billion US dollars at commitment base. Regardless of the impasse confronting the Doha Development Agenda(DDA), we should also approach the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference and negotiations beyond it with a view to fresh thinking and determination to begin exploring fresh and credible approaches..

(Debt Sustainability)

We need to remain vigilant on the issue of sustainable debt management to achieve national development goals. At the same time, we should bear in mind that the Doha Declaration called for all creditors to contribute their fair share and become involved in the international debt resolution mechanisms.

(Systemic Issues)

While Japan welcomes the recent reform of international financial institutions in improving their lending facilities in response to the world financial and economic crisis, we also acknowledge the need to further reform their governance.

(Conclusion)

In conclusion, allow me to express the hope that the discussions at this High-level Dialogue will provide a valuable input to the upcoming important meetings including Rio+20 and the Development Cooperation Forum in 2012.

(end)