

Statement by Ambassador Takahiro Shinyo
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
At the Meeting of the High Level Panel on Strengthening International
Cooperation for Development to Address the Climate Change Challenge
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express deepest condolences for the huge loss of life and suffering caused by the Cyclone which hit Bangladesh. This unprecedentedly great tragedy occurred amid the IPCC announced its final report on the challenge of climate change to the planet and human beings.

I would like to thank the Committee for Development Policy, the Stockholm Environmental Institute and the journal "Development" for convening a meeting of this high level panel. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Sha for the kind invitation extended to us. It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to introduce Japan's view on this important issue of climate change along with the other Ambassadors' presentations.

Climate change is a challenge to life on this planet, and if we are to meet it, concerted action by the international community is required. The United Nations is clearly a key to building such cooperation and to addressing the issue in a comprehensive and coherent manner. I believe that it is very important to show the world that the UN is taking a leading role in fighting climate change, and such initiatives do in fact stimulate the international community to take action on this front.

I would like to briefly explain, first, the main elements of the proposal that Japan announced in May, second, Japan's position on a post-Kyoto framework and, third, an idea for a new financial mechanism to support developing countries in their efforts to address climate change. Further, I would like to touch upon some of the recommendations made by a committee of Japanese experts on climate change.

This May, Japan launched an initiative called "Cool Earth 50" that has set the long-term goal of cutting global emissions by half from the current level by 2050, on which Japan has been working to gain agreement from the entire international

community. Not a few countries including those of G8 have already expressed support for this proposal, and it was mentioned in the declaration¹ that was issued at the conclusion of the Heiligendamm Summit in June.

COP13, which is to be held in Bali, is just around the corner. Last month, the informal ministerial meeting on climate change was held in Bogor in Indonesia, and the participants reached an understanding on the need to launch negotiations on a post-2012 framework in Bali. As we know, the Kyoto Protocol has had limited effectiveness to date because some of the major emitters are either not participating in it or participating but having no obligation to reduce emissions. If this impasse is to be broken, a successor framework needs to establish more effective mechanisms for achieving a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To that end, Japan has proposed three principles which it believes must underlie an effective post-2012 framework, and it hopes that the international community can arrive at some form of agreement on them.

- (1) All major emitters, developed or developing, must participate, thus moving beyond the Kyoto Protocol, leading to global reduction of emissions.
- (2) The framework must be flexible and diverse, taking into consideration the circumstances of each country.
- (3) The framework must achieve compatibility between environmental protection and economic growth by utilizing energy conservation and other technologies.

To promote the realization of these principles, Japan announced that it would extend wide-ranging support to developing countries that have truly high aspirations in this area—in other words, those that say “no” to further global warming, that strive to reduce GHG emissions and make progress towards both environmental protection and economic growth. Japan will give special consideration to developing countries, especially LDCs and SIDS, which are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

For this assistance, we will create a new financial mechanism with substantial size of funds for relatively long term, instead of diverting the funds for assistance to

¹ “In setting a global goal for emissions reductions in the process we have agreed today involving all major emitters, we will consider seriously the decisions made by the European Union, Canada and Japan which include at least a halving of global emissions by 2050. We commit to achieving these goals and invite the major emerging economies to join us in this endeavour.”(Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy (Summit Declaration) para 49)

developing countries that has been traditionally extended. We are currently considering what form the mechanism should take, and specific decisions on assistance will be made based on the needs of recipient countries.

In providing such assistance, adaptation to climate change is one of the areas that should be focused. To that end, in September 2006 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan established an “Experts Committee on International Cooperation for Adaptation to Climate Change in Developing Countries.” In the intervening year, the Committee has been examining this subject, and I would like now to refer to some of the recommendations it has made.

(1) Adaptation measures should be part of a comprehensive effort within the context of development policies to realize poverty reduction, agricultural and water resources development and the prevention of disasters. Due care must be taken in each of these areas to preserve the natural environment and utilize natural resources in a sustainable way, from a long-term perspective. It is also important to mainstream adaptation by proactively taking future climate change risks into account in current development planning and assistance. In this connection, I would like to emphasize the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted by the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe immediately after the Tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean.

(2) Adaptation measures should be integrated into comprehensive development strategies at the national and regional levels based on a long-term, cross-sectoral perspective on the many impacts of climate change. Assistance should be participatory, based on the attributes of a region and its residents, and it should enhance the resilience of the individual. Areas and tasks that are especially urgent, such as water resources, food supplies (agriculture), healthcare, disaster prevention, infrastructure and ecosystem, should be selected on a regional basis, in accordance with the regional nature of the impact climate change is having, the area’s vulnerability and the kind of measures it can take .

(3) It is important to arrive at a common understanding of the adaptation strategies taken by each party responsible for development and climate change policy worldwide. Developing countries, donor countries, international organizations and other parties concerned should share their expertise in fields relevant to adaptation and investigate

cross-sectoral approaches. Aid coordination in line with the comparative advantages of each donor, coordination with NGOs and other community-level actors, and trans-national regional cooperation should also be promoted.

Based on these recommendations, Japan is willing to contribute to international assistance to developing countries in the area of adaptation, taking advantage of the knowledge and expertise it has accumulated in the course of its experience with its ODA programme.

We earnestly hope that the upcoming Bali meeting of COP13 will produce a road map towards post-Kyoto negotiation process. In 2008, the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will start, and negotiations on a post-2012 framework are expected to accelerate. 2008 will therefore be an important year for us in our endeavor to address the issue of climate change, and we have to make the utmost effort to make a positive impact. As the host country for the G8 summit next year, Japan is ready to take a leading role. In closing my remarks, I would like to refer to the notion mentioned in the background paper prepared by Dr. Tariq Banuri that the “climate change” calls for unprecedented North-South collaboration.” I fully agree with it.

Thank you.