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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Jiro Kodera  
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**At the informal consultation of the General Assembly  
on the issue of the institutional framework  
for the UN's environmental activities**

Mr. Co-Chair,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to you for all you have done to ensure full and thorough preparation for the second round of informal consultation on the issue of the institutional framework for the UN's environmental activities. Japan intends to cooperate actively with other Member States in further promoting follow-up under your leadership.

As it made clear in the previous informal consultation, Japan is in total agreement on the need for closer coordination among international environmental actors in order for the full effect of implementing programmes to be achieved. Without such coordination, we will have unnecessary duplication and waste time and energy. In this context, I would note that examples of good coordination exist, such as "the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol" and "the Regional Forum for Environment and Health." We should follow them and consider taking necessary measures so that we may do better in this area. (Q1&6)

For its part, Japan has made it a national priority to exert efforts to arrive at a common policy proposal for the region and extend coordination with NGOs and research institutes in various relevant areas of science and policy. (Q2)

Interaction between the different entities concerned is also necessary, focusing mainly on technical cooperation and capacity building for effective implementation of programmes. That is often what is needed in developing countries. It is particularly important that, as soon as possible,

cooperation on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) and the environmental views in the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) be adopted. (Q3, 5&7)

The importance of the BSP is obvious, and Japan is looking forward to full-scale implementation and the realization of concrete results. Subsequently, an appropriate review should be conducted and further necessary measures taken to ensure that the goals that are set are achieved. With regard to the Cartagena outcome, Japan believes that we have not reached consensus to implement all the elements and should therefore give the matter further consideration. (Q4)

As regards the rapid degradation of the environment, it is becoming difficult for UNEP to offer an adequate response under the existing system. However, we should refrain from a decision based on the idea that strengthening UNEP will automatically solve all problems. To tackle current environmental challenges, cooperation from relevant environmental bodies is needed. Without it, even if UNEP is strengthened, effective solutions cannot be expected. We should accordingly be practical and flexible as we consider the best way to strengthen the UN environmental system. (Q8)

With regard to the idea of revising mandates, operations must be efficient if UN activities are to produce results. Consequently, we should discuss streamlining the system before taking up the issue of mandate change. For example, it might be conducive to rationalization of the system to implement the recommendations of the High-Level Panel, consider consolidating multilateral environment agreements (MEAs), and give UNEP the mandate of providing guidance to treaty bodies. (Q9)

Turning to the issue of funding, Japan is of the view that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a useful mechanism for providing resources for cross-cutting environmental projects. On the other hand, UNEP should strengthen coordination with development assistance bodies and promote resource mobilization by proposing projects that will have a specific effect

on development. (Q10)

Partnership is very important to improving global environmental governance. In Japan, the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), in cooperation with UNEP, has developed a mechanism for promoting good practices. Japan believes that continuing efforts of this kind contribute to enhancing partnership among different entities, with the result over time at the regional level being that global partnership is promoted. (Q11)

In conclusion, we hope that we will be able to complete this informal consultation successfully. On the other hand, we need to carefully follow and coordinate this initiative with the process in which the High-Level Panel is engaged, so as to ensure it will be more effective.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.