

Statement by Mr. Hajime Ueda, Counsellor,
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
At the General Discussion of the Second Committee of the General Assembly
on Macroeconomic policy questions (Item 18) and
Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development (Item19)
(New York, October 2012)

Mr. Chair,

The economic recovery and growth have been slowing down recently in many parts of the world. Many countries, including Japan, are now facing the challenging dilemma of simultaneously achieving fiscal consolidation and economic growth. In July, Japan announced a comprehensive policy package that includes a new growth strategy towards 2020 which focuses on four key areas, namely; the environment, health, agriculture, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and also measures toward fiscal consolidation over the medium to long term, including a step-by-step increase in the consumption tax over several years.

Mr. Chair,

This month, Japan hosted the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in Tokyo. International financial institutions such as these play a pivotal role in the efforts to overcome the current uncertainty in the world's economy and its financial markets. Japan had taken the lead in this regard, not only by hosting the annual meetings but also by contributing to the enhancement of IMF resource in April ahead of commitments made by other countries. Governance reforms and quota increases by the IMF, which were agreed in 2010 but have not yet been ratified, are necessary if we are to match each country's voice and quota share with its economic weight and to secure our trust toward IMF. In light of this, we must double our efforts to make the reform agreement effective as soon as possible.

Mr. Chair,

The responsibility and duty of the international community to keep trade and investment flowing, help developing countries integrate themselves into the multilateral trading system, promote economic growth and create and maintain employment are now

more important than ever. In this context, Japan has steadily implemented the Aid for Trade pledge made in 2009 to provide 12 billion US dollars for trade-related assistance projects. Japan has also been fully involved in reviewing Aid for Trade, so as to share its expertise and the lessons learned in Asia with other regions, particularly Africa.

Mr. Chair,

The United Nations has a major role to play in the governance of the global economy. However, with regard to the follow-up to the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in 2009, various measures have already been taken in the context of the existing UN mechanisms, and therefore we need to carefully consider the necessity and added value of introducing any such new mechanism, as well as its cost-benefit.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to speak briefly about several points related to financing for development (Item 19), namely aid effectiveness, south-south cooperation and FFD follow up.

We support the active follow-up of the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, including creating a "global partnership for effective development cooperation". My delegation hopes to further enhance our close cooperation with various stakeholders, including the emerging countries that have achieved dynamic economic growth.

South-south cooperation has been steadily evolving and emerging economies, the private sector and others from the south are playing an increasingly significant role in the global development community. My delegation, as a long time promoter of south-south and triangular cooperation, would like to see that south-south cooperation and north-south cooperation are recognized together as two complementary means to a common end.

Finally, regarding the FFD follow-up process, as is mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General as well as an ECOSOC resolution, my delegation considers it important to ensure consistency and avoid duplication among the FFD process, the intergovernmental expert committee to be established as a follow-up to Rio+20, and the

ongoing post-2015 development agenda process.

Thank you.