

The possibility of holding a high-level event on sustainable development  
Japan's comments

Japan takes note of the proposal of one Member State to convene a world summit on sustainable development in 2012 on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of UNCED.

In discussing the possibility of holding a high-level event on this subject, Japan believes that we should first give thorough consideration to the matters of a possible theme, timing and the preparatory process.

- For any theme, we consider, the necessity of convening a high-level event should be evaluated in light of the status of international discussion or negotiations on that subject, and a particular effort should be made to avoid duplicating other discussions or negotiations.

- The timing should be appropriate to the particular theme we choose.

- As for the preparatory process, we should consider the various costs the United Nations Secretariat and each Member State would have to bear.

Implementation of Agenda 21 is, currently being reviewed by the CSD, which was established to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED, and the schedule calls for the thematic clusters to continue to be reviewed until 2015; an overall appraisal of Agenda 21 is to be issued in 2016/2017. Any high-level event we decide on therefore should avoid unnecessary duplication of those activities. Also, if the CSD is designated as the preparatory process for the event, care should be taken so that its activities, just mentioned, should not be impacted.

Finally, the possibility of holding a high-level event on sustainable development should be fully debated during the next session of the United Nations General Assembly, with consideration given to concrete proposals and ideas. For its part, Japan is ready to engage proactively in such discussions this fall.