

Country Statement by the delegation of Japan  
at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue  
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Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Thailand and ESCAP for their organization of this meeting. It is very timely to have this meeting today, when the elaboration of the Post-2015 development agenda, including the SDGs is proceeding actively, such as the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs Open Working Group. The Asia-Pacific region has experienced remarkable economic growth, rapid urbanization and increase of population. Based on experiences and knowledge of this region, we hope we will be able to provide a meaningful input to the discussions on the Post-2015 development agenda from this region.

Following the Rio+20 held last year in June, the momentum to achieve sustainable development has been growing. We welcome that the follow-up processes are ongoing actively, keeping the momentum of Rio+20. Discussions in the SDGs OWG, High Level Political Forum and Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing should be integrated into the Post-2015 development agenda.

Building upon the strengths of the current Millennium Development Goals, its successor should be simple, clear, easy-to-understand, and measurable. In addition, it should address the unfinished jobs of the current MDGs in a strengthened and improved manner, while addressing emerging challenges as well.

I would like to touch upon three major challenges that we regard important in the elaboration of the SDGs and Post-2015 development agenda.

First of all, in order to meet diversified health needs, we must aim at ensuring universal access to basic healthcare services. To this end, the new framework should

include the promotion of Universal Health Coverage. In May, the Government of Japan developed a Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy, positioning international health as a priority in our diplomatic policy, to promote efforts in both public and private sectors.

Secondly, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in development is an urgent issue. Disaster risk reduction is critical to achieve sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region which experiences frequent natural disasters and rapid urbanization. Our region can contribute to the world in this field. Japan will be hosting the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 to further promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the international community.

Thirdly, the need to address challenges in cities, such as energy efficiency, water supply, and waste management is also a matter of urgency. Japan will jointly host the International Conference on Future of Cities in October, with UNIDO, OECD and the City of Kitakyushu, to contribute to the creation of sustainable cities in developing countries and countries around the world.

In addressing all the aforementioned issues, the Post-2015 development agenda should be based on the overarching principle of human security. By focusing on every individual, we can give due consideration to the nexus among various threats. Also we can promote a comprehensive approach, and encourage collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders.

It is essential for the Asia Pacific region to express a clear political commitment that all countries in this region will establish a “global partnership” in a real by sharing responsibilities in accordance with their capabilities. Japan will cooperate with the other countries in this region to achieve sustainable development, utilizing our own experience and expertise.

Thank you.