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**Statement by Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto  
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Ministry of the Environment, Japan  
At the High-Level Segment of the CSD-17**

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Madam Chair, distinguished ministers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to say a few words on behalf of the Government of Japan.

If the ultimate goal of the current CSD cycle, sustainable development, is to be realized, progress must be made on all the thematic issues: Africa, agriculture, drought, desertification, land and rural development. To that end, I would like to raise four points that Japan believes are important.

The first relates to adaptation. Recently, it has been reported that the quality of crops in Japan has deteriorated and unusual ecological phenomena observed. Because global warming affects the entire world, it is important that there be an appropriate response on the part of the international community based on scientific data and assessment.

In June 2008, the Government of Japan published a report entitled "Wise Adaptation to Climate Change," which analyzes the need for effective and efficient adaptation to climate change in Japan and developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Based on its recommendations, Japan is committed to promoting further cooperation and support to developing countries, especially those vulnerable to climate change. It will also continue to collect and compile the latest scientific knowledge and conduct further study and research in this field.

When we transfer technology from developed to developing countries, we should work for its success by taking precautions against problems occurring in its management and application. Japan recognizes that it is critically important to respect and utilize traditional knowledge and local technical skills in ensuring proper maintenance and management of new technology, and that can be applicable to other regions. For this



reason, we will continue to promote the appropriate utilization of traditional knowledge and existing technologies.

The second point is the importance of utilizing biomass. This will contribute not only to mitigating global warming but also to revitalizing local communities, reducing waste and achieving new frontiers in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. To further promote the utilization of biomass, Japan initiated the “Biomass Nippon Strategy” in December 2002.

We must strive to achieve compatibility between production of biofuel and a sufficient food supply, promoting both at the same time. For its part, Japan is strengthening its research and development efforts to produce biofuel using rice straw and thinned wood, which will not conflict with the food supply.

The third point I would like to touch upon is “Green Innovation.”

Madam Chair,

Biological diversity is the foundation of all life forms. One of the main causes of global warming and the loss of biodiversity is the destruction and degradation of forests. To address this problem, there has begun to be international discussion about incorporating the programme called “Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries” (REDD) into a post-2012 framework . The Government of Japan will continue to make its utmost efforts in this field.

It is necessary not only to preserve biological diversity but also to make sustainable use of all forms of life. Japan has been collecting good practices with regard to symbiotic interaction between lifestyles and ecosystems in order to arrive at an international model for sustainable natural resource management and utilization in farming communities and the ecosystems in which they exist. We will introduce that model as part of the “Satoyama Initiative” at the tenth conference of the parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to be held in Japan in 2010. Satoyama is associated with a traditional Japanese landscape of a rural area where a symbiotic interaction between human lifestyles and a complex ecosystem has been maintained over long periods of history.

Last but not least, I would like to stress the importance of basing land use for carbon sinks. According to the IPCC report, carbon capture and storage in the soil of farmlands has great potential for mitigating global warming. We recognize that utilization of farmland soil in this manner is necessary to mitigate global warming efficiently and effectively. We are also encouraging the use of compost for carbon capture and storage.

The Government of Japan recognizes the need to accelerate discussions with a view towards the early formulation of rules on forest management and revegetation in order to reach an international agreement on a post-2012 framework. And in that agreement, LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use change and Forestry) should be properly identified as a measures of carbon sinks.

Madam Chair,

These are the four points to which Japan attaches greatest importance in this area. They are not separate and independent of one another. Rather, they are closely related. A comprehensive approach is therefore required.

I strongly believe that a frank exchange of views among the distinguished ministers and other parties gathered here will enable us to take a step towards the resolution of global issues, including the ones that I have mentioned, under your leadership, Madam Chair.

Thank you very much for your attention.