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Statement by H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
UN Conference on Sustainable Development, PrepCom 2, Session 1
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Mr. Co-Chair,

At the outset, let me stress Japan's firm commitment to contribute actively to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. I would like to make a statement focusing on the key deliverables of the Conference.

Firstly, in order to secure the renewed political commitment, demonstrate its added value and produce tangible impact for sustainable development, we need to set a new paradigm and overcome the traditional dichotomy between developed and developing countries and between environment and development. We are critically in need of a new green growth model, which reconciles economic development, efficient use of natural resources and environmental protection.

My Government believes that the Conference should concentrate on what can be achieved in the context of the two agreed themes and on the conceptual framework to guide our actions in achieving those objectives.

Having said that, I would like to elaborate on some specific sectors related to sustainable development and green economy in which my Government has keen interest at this stage.

Mr. Co-Chair,

First on the list is the climate change issue. At COP16, the "Cancun Agreements" anchored the emission reduction pledges of both developed and developing countries under UNFCCC. Building on this significant achievement, we need a truly fair and effective international framework to solve the climate change issue and to realize a transformation to a low-carbon economy.

As the fast-start financing for this imminent challenge announced in December 2009, Japan pledged USD 15 billion up to 2012, including public and private finance to support developing countries, and has already implemented USD 7.2 billion as of the end of September 2010. Japan is delivering on its commitment taking into account the

developments in the international negotiations.

Second, biodiversity merits our close attention. At CBD-COP10 held in Nagoya, the Member States agreed on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as the global strategic plan for the period 2011 to 2020. As the President of COP10, Japan established a Trust Fund with a voluntary contribution of USD 12 million to assist developing countries to prepare their national plans to implement the Aichi Targets. This is one of our deliverables in this sector.

Another sector we put high priority on, both in the context of sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs, is water and sanitation. We should capture the discussions at the 6th World Water Forum to be held in Marseille several months ahead of the UNCSO. Japan also supports the global effort to realize “Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015”.

As for the institutional framework for sustainable development, my Delegation supports in-depth discussions on both the long-term visions and the concrete deliverables for the short and medium term to improve international environmental governance.

Mr. Co-Chair,

To conclude my intervention, I would like to explain Japan’s view on the overarching concept to guide our actions for sustainable development.

Rising food prices and high unemployment rates are seen as among the reasons for the recent social and political unrest in some countries. These issues are not alien to the challenge of sustainable development. In order to deal with this challenge, it is essential to establish a society where the dignity of each and every person is fully respected. The human security concept calls for the protection and empowerment of individuals so that people, including future generations, are free from fear and want and can fully realize their potential.

Last but not least, as one of my Government’s humble “deliverables” for the success of the Conference, it has decided to make a voluntary contribution of USD 91 thousand to support developing countries’ participation in the preparatory process.

Thank you for your attention.