

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17)
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting
Statement by the Delegation of Japan

Africa (Thursday, 26 February 2009, 15:00-18:00 @ CR 4)

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I'm pleased to hear that the High-level Intersessional Regional Meeting for Africa held in Namibia on February 9th, 2009 had fruitful outcomes. In addition to our financial contribution to this conference, we dispatched a JICA senior official to share the results of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held last May in Yokohama.

I would like to reiterate our commitments for cooperation with African countries. From the inception of the TICAD process in the early 90's, Japan has stressed the importance of 'Africa's ownership' of its development as well as of the 'partnership' between Africa and the international community. There was a consensus at TICAD IV regarding the importance of agricultural and rural development, especially improving productivity, increasing relevant infrastructure investment and assisting CAADP.

Turning now to the SG's report, we would like to encourage non-Paris Club official bilateral creditors and private creditors to provide comparable relief on HIPC terms for eligible outstanding debt and to *encourage non-HIPCs with debt distress to make efforts to improve their domestic debt management systems*. Detailed comments to this effect will be shared with the Secretariat later.

The world is now facing a serious financial crisis, which has begun to influence the real global economy. Regardless of such unexpected circumstances, Japan is committed to fulfilling the promises it made at TICAD IV, including doubling its ODA to Africa by 2012. To review its own implementation of commitments as well as those of others at TICAD IV, Japan will be organizing a Ministerial Follow Up Meeting in Botswana on March 21-22. Information on the progress made in implementing the Yokohama Action Plan will be shared among all the relevant partners in order to shine a brighter light on the way forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Appendix: Japan's comments on paragraph 103 (Page 24)
of the Report of the Secretary-General on Africa (E/CN.17/2009/8).**

Indication for the necessity of new arrangements to tackle the debt problem is not desirable as various measures are already in place such as Enhanced HIPC, the MDRI, and the Avian Approach, and it is more important to fully utilize the existing mechanisms. In addition, non-Paris Club members are strongly encouraged to consider extending support to eligible HIPC countries. Furthermore, creating a new mechanism to accommodate the issue of non-HIPC countries is not a real solution to the problem, as it is necessary for them to improve their debt management systems.

<Paragraph 103 with Japan's comments>

The MDG target of dealing comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries has not been achieved in full. ~~Additional actions need to be taken to relieve the debt burden of countries not part of the e-HIPC. Actions at all levels are needed to:~~ strengthen national debt management systems; remove obstacles that delay e-HIPC completion, including additional resources for countries that have not yet reached completion point; **encourage non-Paris Club official bilateral creditors and private creditors to provide comparable relief on HIPC terms for eligible outstanding debt**; ~~review and improve~~ *fully utilize* the existing Debt Sustainability Framework; ~~establish an orderly sovereign debt restructuring process for non-HIPCs with debt distress~~ *encourage non-HIPCs with debt distress to make efforts to improve their domestic debt management systems*; and increase bilateral resource allocations to grant assistance rather than concessional lending.