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National Statement

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On behalf of the Government of Japan, I am pleased to participate in this High-Level Segment of CSD18 and to share our initiatives as the contribution to this session.

Among several themes of the CSD cycle, I would like to focus my remarks on two specific subjects, namely waste management and chemicals due to limited time frame in this morning.

On waste management, Japan is fully committed to a sound management of waste and 3R initiatives. We have developed our regional-wide cooperation through the "3R Forum in Asia," which was launched last year. We are very much pleased to share our experiences, good practices and technologies among our participating countries.

As our contribution to this CSD session, Japan organized the inter-sessional meeting last March in Tokyo in close collaboration with the UN/DESA and UNCRD. This meeting discussed the following subjects:

- a) common issues and challenges in developing countries,
- b) options to expand waste management services for local communities,
- c) innovative approaches and strategies for integrated waste management (IWM), and
- d) issues with the informal sector.

Chair's summary of this meeting is available during the current session and in the CSD website as the background paper.

In addition, Japan is ready to host another inter-sessional meeting toward the next session of CSD in January next year. I believe that lively discussions at the forthcoming meeting will be able to contribute to CSD19.

On chemicals, Japan experienced serious health and environmental damages by PCBs and enacted legislation in 1973 to regulate PCB-like chemicals based on their hazardous levels. Since then, we have been developing our chemical management policies by adopting a step-by-step approach, from hazard-based regulation to risk-based one. I believe that the legislation based on hazard level assessment would be still effective in the initial stage of the regulatory policies on the chemicals.

Involvement of and cooperation with stakeholders, especially industry are a key to successful policy development. For example, the PRTR system was developed in Japan under thorough consultation with industry and environmental NGOs, which contributed to the steady decrease in releases of target chemicals.

International discussions often help countries develop their policies. I believe that countries will be able to learn each other and mainstream chemicals management priorities into their policy for sustainable development through this CSD process.

Japan is determined to actively contribute to developing an international convention to prevent mercury pollution. The serious health damage like Minamata disease should never be repeated in any other places in the world. It is our strong and sincere desire to name the forthcoming treaty "Minamata Convention."

In conclusion, Japan is committed to continue to contribute to the international community through its active participation in this CSD.

Thank you,