

(Unofficial Translation)

Resolution on Japan's Development Policies in the Face of G7 JAPAN 2016 Ise-Shima, the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), and "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

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Special Committee on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters
House of Councillors, Japan

The year 2016 will mark an historical year in an attempt to strengthen Japan's diplomacy, international development cooperation, and various domestic policies. On May 26th and 27th, the G7 Summit will be held in Ise and Shima, Japan. On August 27th and 28th, the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) will be held in Kenya, for the first time in Africa, while some of the new commitments related to environment and climate change will soon start at full scale based on the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in December 2015. In the same month last year, the ASEAN Economic Community was established, creating an enormous market whose size exceeds that of the European Community, which holds about 620 million people. On the other hand, having reached the turning point of the fifth year since the unprecedented disasters of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, along with the recent frequent large-scale earthquakes occurring around Kumamoto Prefecture, which have caused many deaths and losses of livelihood, the real value of Japan should be proven this year as a nation that has been calling for realizing human security in the world.

In addition, "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (the 2030 Agenda) will start this year. This agenda is a plan of action for "people, planet and prosperity"; a universal and comprehensive agenda "to transform our world," pledging that "no one will be left behind." To achieve this, it is necessary to overcome the old dichotomy of the North-South divide and establish new global partnerships to help and learn from one another among all stakeholders, including all the countries, regions, civil societies, as well as the private sector.

Last year, at the turning point of the 70th year since the end of World War II,

Japan has once again sworn our contribution to world peace. Based on our “Peace Constitution,” the concept of human security and the 2030 Agenda, we should play an active role globally as a leading figure in the aforementioned commitments, while demonstrating our presence as a role model by reflecting on how our country should be and reforming ourselves.

Thus, in relation to our international development cooperation and various domestic policies, the Japanese government should take appropriate measures on the following matters:

1. The Basic Position in Relation to the Approach to Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is defined as “development that satisfies the needs of the current generation as well as those of future generations” in relation to economy, society and environment. Originally, the Japanese word for “development” was derived from the Buddhist term for “generating the nature of Buddha”; i.e. to flourish spontaneously individual potential and create an environment in which one can live a productive and creative life. The idea of human security, to liberate the whole world from “fear and poverty” by protecting our lives and improving our abilities, may coincide with the philosophy of the Japanese Constitution. Based on this idea, the government should exercise leadership in implementing fully the 2030 Agenda, comprising of 17 universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets. To implement them, the government should devote itself to policymaking, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and ensuring accountability and transparency, while promoting the participation of all the nationals, based on equal partnerships among multiple stakeholders, including civil society.

2. Eradicating Poverty, Reducing Disparity or Inequality, and Securing Appropriate Employment

The issues of poverty and disparity are worldwide problems as well as immediate priorities for sustainable development. Some analyses show that the population under living in absolute poverty makes up a sixth of the world population, while half of the world’s wealth is owned by less than 100 people. In the case of Japan, too, it is pointed out that a sixth of the population is living in relative poverty, with the country’s Gini coefficient representing the 10th highest among the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) members. To achieve the goals of eradicating absolute poverty by 2030, as well as halving the ratio of the population, particularly of women and children, of all ages in any level of poverty, according to

each country's definition, necessary measures should be taken at national and international levels, including promotion of industries to produce high-quality employment, realization of gender equality, and establishment of taxation and social security systems to fulfill a fair society.

3. Reducing Starvation and Restraining Excessive Production/Consumption

Globally, close to 800 million people are suffering from starvation. To the contrary, Japan is now discarding 6.42 million tons of food, far beyond the world's annual food aid total of 3.2 million tons. The government should move forward with efforts to promote the shift to a "Sufficiency Economy" or an "asking for little, and knowing sufficiently" society, with goals set forth as SDGs, i.e. increasing productivity, maintaining ecosystems, strengthening capacity for adaptation to disasters, and ensuring sustainable food production systems, taking account of the goal defined by the United Nations to halve global food waste per person at retail and consumption levels by 2030.

4. Peaceful Tackling of Terrorism and Conflicts, and Inclusive Response to Foreigners Residing in Japan

Frequent terrorist acts have been threats for the international community, while freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, among others, are more widely acknowledged as universal values of humanity. In response to terrorism and conflicts, the means not dependent on the use of arms, including justice, law enforcement, and diplomacy, among others, should come first, and Japan, as the country with the Peace Constitution, should continue non-military contributions. We should commit ourselves to eliminating poverty, disparity, and all kinds of discrimination against immigrants and others, which underlies terrorism and conflicts, and to the social inclusion of everyone, while taking measures for multicultural symbiosis with foreigners residing in Japan, paying attention to their fundamental human rights. In addition, from a humanitarian perspective, we should also proceed with active discussions on acceptance of immigrants among our nationals.

5. Coping with Global Warming and Climate Change, and Shift to Sustainable Energy

In response to the issue of global climate change, Japan exercised leadership in putting together the "Kyoto Protocol." To keep exercising leadership on this issue and contribute to the world, we should commit ourselves to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 26% by fiscal year 2030, compared to the level of 2013, based on the "Paris Agreement" concluded last year, and diffuse throughout the world the insights

and experiences that Japan possesses in relation to environmental issues, through international development cooperation and other activities. In addition, concerning Pacific Island countries affected seriously by the climate change, we will move forward with greater promotion of the “Pacific Environment Community,” based on the consensus of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). For that purpose, mitigation of climate changing factors and drastic improvements in adaption capacity are required. Adequate environment-related measures, such as maintaining ecosystems on land, forest protection, prevention of desertification and addressing serious water shortages, should be taken. Furthermore, from the perspective of sustainability considering climate change, necessary measures should be taken, including support for realization of inexpensive and reliable energy supply, to shift from energy sources that emit large amounts of carbon dioxide to renewable energy using hydrogen, sunlight, wind power, geothermal heat, wave power, etc.

6. Further Efforts in Disaster Prevention and Global Leadership

To share globally our insights and experiences on disasters, Japan should make every effort to achieve the goals of “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,” adopted at the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction last year. At the same time, we need to address the present challenges of complete reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and early relief and reconstruction from the Kumamoto Earthquake, while leading the world in disaster prevention, including the significant reduction of disaster risks and losses suffered by individuals, businesses, communities and the country in relation to human lives, daily living and health, in the face of the Tonankai Earthquake and the capital inland earthquakes predicted to occur in the future.

7. High Quality Infrastructure Investment and Addressing the Infrastructure Crisis

One of the strengths of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) is development of economic infrastructure, which has significantly contributed to development in developing countries in Asia and others, among others. In the future, in relation not only to ODA but also private and other official flows (OOF), we should step forward to oblige the “Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations” to expand investment in high quality infrastructure with inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience. On the other hand, due to the deteriorated Japanese infrastructure, sweeping measures are urgently needed, considering that enormous funding may be required for maintenance, management and updates of conventional infrastructure that aims to

enhance the quality of the infrastructure, including innovations to prolong life. We also need to highlight green infrastructure that leverages various functions with which the natural environment is equipped. In addition, we should encourage other countries to invest in high quality infrastructure, considering the lessons learned by Japan, since similar crises are also supposed in those countries.

8. Promotion of Assistance in Health Sectors with Universal Health Coverage as its Core

Japan has led the world in terms of international health policies with the example of contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) established at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000. At the G7 JAPAN 2016 Ise-Shima, we should continuously exercise leadership in the same field, particularly in view of realizing “Universal Health Coverage” (UHC), a safe and effective high-quality inexpensive healthcare service that can be accessed by anybody, so that no one will be left behind, while offering constructive proposals to establish an effective program based on dialogues with local communities. In addition, with the increasing threats of new pandemics at a global level, as globalization proceeds, we should commit ourselves to realizing an early response system and, as the basis for the system, to strengthening the healthcare system. To overcome domestic and overseas health crises, the government should expand investment in the health sector, including increases in the governmental health spending, ODA, and the contributions to international organizations, etc.

9. Realization of Inclusive and High-quality Education

Education, which develop individual capacity, plays a principle role in sustainable development and, at the same time, is one of fundamental human rights. Towards achievement of “Education for All” (EFA), we should be engaged in international development cooperation to eliminate illiteracy among a little less than 800 million people and provide vulnerable people, such as handicapped people, ethnic minorities, and those who are under dispute with inclusive and high quality education, so as to secure comprehensive and fair education with quality for all and promote opportunities for lifelong learning. Considering that there are numbers of people without sufficient education due to a variety of reasons such as poverty, disabilities, bullying, foreigners, etc., Japan should also strengthen the efforts to securing the right to receive education for such people. We should try to increase investment in children and young generations, while aiming to increase the ratio of government spending in

education, currently at the lowest level among the OECD countries, to the OECD average.

10. Sustainable Local Development through Measures against Decreasing Birthrates and Aging Population, and Contribution to International Society

Declining birthrates, an aging population, and depopulation in Japan are at a high level in the world, and are becoming increasingly serious problems. However, some successful measures against the declining birthrate and aging population can be seen. In Taiki, for instance, a town fairly close to the venue of the G7 JAPAN 2016 Ise-Shima, elderly people are engaged in organic farming as a means of promoting self-sufficiency, increased revenue and better health through morning markets, and a resilient local society. Such activities of vigorous aging population have significant meaning in terms not only of local creation in Japan but also in developing countries in which similar urbanization and population aging are taking place, and such successful cases of “local wisdom” should be disseminated to the world. In addition, in response to dementia, Japan should contribute to providing solutions to the issues of international society by disseminating and sharing successful cases of medical and local efforts.

11. Toward the TICAD VI: the Achievement of Sustainable Development in Africa

In Africa, events which interfere with development, such as a drop in the growth rate due to declining international commodity prices, epidemics of infectious diseases, and expansion of violent extremism, are also taking place. Through TICAD, Japan should well understand the needs of the African people to further our assistance as a sincere partner. We should actively provide a range of assistance, such as diffusion of inclusive and high quality education with emphasis on learning and technical capabilities, realization of UHC, promotion of industrialization through grass root forces, and stronger functions of income distribution, in addition to international development cooperation and private investment, in an attempt to get away from a resource-dependent economy and to deliver the fruits of economic growth to all people. Furthermore, upon adoption of the “Agenda 2063” by the African Union, and harmonizing the TICAD process with it, we should promote cooperation for their true self-reliance.

12. Funding for Sustainable Development, and Prevention of Tax Havens, Corruption and Bribery

Not only have inappropriate use of development funds due to tax havens,

corruption and bribery come to the surface, but so have huge losses caused by exploitation of necessary funds attributable. By building legal and international monitoring systems and strengthening governance, we should improve the effectiveness of fund utilization. In addition, under the leadership of the G7 countries, we need to step forward to achieve the goal of increasing the ODA spending to 0.7% of GNI to achieve SDGs, and should urgently secure the funding necessary to promote wealth redistribution at a global level and international development cooperation in accordance with human security. For that purpose, we should encourage establishment of innovative funding mechanisms, including the international solidarity tax, among others.

13. Securing the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) Cycle and Transparency, Accountability and Public Participation

Toward the realization of the 2030 Agenda, the Japanese government should implement the PDCA cycle and participate in the global review process, to make and implement policies as well as to ensure transparency in relation to spending and others. With public participation, we should take firm steps to install a control tower to promote the said agenda and to secure comprehensive partnerships with multiple stakeholders, including civil society. In addition, we should carry out the publication of the “2030 Agenda White Paper” (tentative), full implementation of the “Aichi/Nagoya Declaration,” and promotion of “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).” Furthermore, to lead the study on sustainable development in Japan and to inform the world, we should designate “Agenda 2030 Base (Allied) Universities” (tentative), allocate the science and technology research budget, mainly in the field of sustainable development, and go into partnership with academic societies related to sustainable development. Japan should lead the discussions to have this resolution well reflected in G7 JAPAN 2016 Ise-Shima.

The above is resolved.