

Statement by the Delegation of Japan
First session of the Preparatory Committee for the
Third International Conference on small island developing States

Mr. Secretary-General
Co-Chairs,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Let me begin by expressing our congratulations to H.E. Karen Tan, Permanent Representative of Singapore, and H.E. Phillip Taula, Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand, on their assumption of the duties of co-chairs of the Committee. We believe that Their Excellencies will play excellent leading roles, and Japan, as a Bureau member, is committed to actively contributing to the process leading up to the International Conference in September.

As we are all aware, the economic, environmental and social challenges which SIDS face have become increasingly imminent. This is why we are determined to underline anew the emergency of these challenges at the next International Conference. In order to send a clear message, it is important that the outcome document is brief, concise and focused. In other words we should make this Conference an opportunity to reaffirm what the priorities are, rather than trying to cover all of the relevant topics.

With such understanding, allow me to touch upon Japan's basic position and ideas on the priorities to be outlined in the outcome document.

Overall in considering ways to address various challenges faced by SIDS, the perspective of human security, which calls for people-centered approach, should be properly taken into account in the formation of the outcome document.

As for specific themes, Japan would like to raise six points.

First, on climate change, the international community needs to make a concerted effort, putting special emphasis on adaptation to which vulnerable countries, especially SIDS, place high priority. In addition, transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, especially those related to renewable energy and energy saving, become extremely important. Such means are also meaningful from the viewpoint of providing affordable energy to SIDS.

Second, building a disaster-resilient-society is also crucial for SIDS as they are located in disaster prone areas. Infrastructure such as observation equipment and early warning system, together with education or training for safe evacuation is important in this respect.

Third, the ocean is obviously of great importance for SIDS. Sustainable use of its resources should be promoted through rule-making at international/regional frameworks supported by technical cooperation.

Forth, in regard to health, SIDS is facing the double burden of infectious diseases and growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and in response, a comprehensive health policy is greatly needed. Access to essential health services as well as increased financial protection will play a central role to achieve universal health coverage (UHC). Furthermore, sustainability of UHC with cost-effective and good quality services is needed in preparation for an aging society.

Fifth, with scarce land on one side, and small amount of waste on the other, it is effective and realistic for SIDS to focus on 3R, 4R and waste reclamation.

Finally, sixth, given the relatively small size of population, it should be noted that the economy and society of SIDS will greatly

benefit from an enhanced empowerment of women.

Japan sees itself as an active player in each of the areas that has just been referred to, and we look forward to having an effective and fruitful discussion with you all in the months to come.

Thank you.