

Statement by Mr. Masaya Sagawa
Delegation of Japan
General comments on the Chairperson's draft negotiating document

4 May 2009

Thank you, Madam Chair,

First of all, I would like to thank the Chair, the members of the bureau and the secretariat for producing the Chairperson's negotiating document. Japan considers the document a good basis for negotiation during this session. Having said that, I would like to raise some important points for possible improvement of the document.

Madam Chair,

Throughout 15 years of TICAD or the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Japan has stressed the importance of "Africa's ownership" of its development as well as of the "partnership" between Africa and the international community. We are pleased that these concepts are widely accepted in Africa. Therefore we believe that this important achievement of the TICAD process should be incorporated in the Chairperson's negotiating document.

Secondly, I hope that the members of the CSD are all well aware of donor countries' sensitivity to the usage of the words "new" or "additional" when we talk about financial resources. In order to save time for more productive policy dialogue, my delegation recommends that we stick to agreed language when discussing financing issues.

Finally, Japan believes that in the document there should be a reference to the notion of "human security", a concept which aims to protect people from critical and pervasive threats to human lives, livelihoods and dignity, and thus to enhance human fulfillment. This concept addresses multi-sectoral issues and promotes a participatory approach based on protection and empowerment, and therefore, is a critical approach in addressing sustainable development.

Madam Chair,

The Delegation of Japan looks forward to working with others in order to improve the text. We sincerely hope that CSD-17 can adopt a productive decision on these very important thematic issues of sustainable development.

Thank you, Madam Chair.