

STATEMENT
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Thank you Mr. Moderator, Distinguished delegates.

My name is Fumiko Kasuga, and it is a pleasure for me to be on this panel as a representative of the International Council for Science, ICSU, one of the organizing partners of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group. I am a Director at National Institute of Health Sciences, and I am a Visiting Professor at The University of Tokyo in Japan.

As identified in the UN Secretary General's Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, there are various key areas where science and technology can and are expected to play in implementing the SDGs towards sustainable future with well-being and dignity for all, often conceptualized with the word, human security.

Science is neutral, objective and universal: it can provide sound foundation for policy making and communication tools to raise accountability and transparency of the policies nationally and internationally. In the last decade, science has drawn attention to the scale and speed at which human societies are affecting Earth; and it has also contributed towards reducing such impacts, as seen for instance in my country Japan. Allow me to highlight here the improvement of atmospheric condition in Yokkaichi City and water quality in Tamagawa-River, while maintaining economic growth and quality of human life in the region.

However, we have also realized that science has its own weaknesses and limitations – as most of the scientific work has been conducted by working

within the silos of disciplines and within the academic community. I have attended the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March. Early warning system could stop many Shinkansen Bullet Trains under operation at the moment of earthquake, but scientists could not save people from Tsunami or from earthquake in Nepal. We honestly recognize such limitations but believe that there are still much room for us to do by improving and enhancing knowledge generation and sharing, again based on close dialogues with other sectors in the society.

Thus, in order to leave “no one behind” and to address global-scale issues, the scientific and technological community has identified a new direction to overcome such weaknesses; the scientific and technological community has taken the decision to work in integrative and inter-disciplinary manner, and to work within the global partnership.

As part of the means of implementation for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, an enhanced global partnership between policy-makers, scientists and other sectors of civil society is critical, in order to:

- **co-design** and jointly identify the critical issues that need to be addressed;
- **co-produce** knowledge that effectively supports decision-making; and
- to **co-deliver** solutions that are supported by scientific evidence.

These innovative “co-activities” are explicitly characterized as “trans-disciplinary approaches” within the new scientific initiative, Future Earth which is sponsored by the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability comprising the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Belmont Forum of funding agencies, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), UNESCO, UNEP, the United Nations University, and WMO.

Through this innovative approaches in research, we can address more complex challenges, such as the linkage between climate change, biodiversity loss and material cycles change on the planet, which directly affects food, water and energy supply and causes many of the social problems

that are stated within SDGs. Through inter- and trans-disciplinary activities, we can demonstrate this linkage in holistic manner so that the policy makers can establish evidence-based, practical targets to lead, for example, to well-balanced, sustainable production and consumption, also by respecting people's life and culture.

Recognizing our responsibility, the scientific and technological community is ready to enhance the critical role of science in the delivery of sustainable development solutions, including a new fit-for-purpose science-policy-practice interface for implementing the SDGs, new schemes for capacity building (especially for developing countries), and integrated indicators to ensure effective monitoring and review of the agenda.

We further emphasize that Member States should benefit from those mechanisms by recognizing the critical need for much enhanced harnessing of both science and technology for the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda and the SDGs. It is urgent that governments scale up national science and technology activities and capacity targeted on sustainable development. Ministries and government agencies should also encourage and take the lead in developing much stronger collaboration across scientific, policy and practitioner communities. It is also very important to enhance support for international cooperation in scientific research, capacity building, knowledge sharing and innovation.

In conclusion, I would like to address to some of the Guiding Questions.

#2. What mechanisms can ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of stakeholders?

Stakeholders should be identified for each SDG. Then, research co-design, co-production and co-delivery processes should be developed in order to provide the knowledge needed for implementing each SDG, also ensuring implementation-synergies among the SDGs. In conducting scientific research, Future Earth, through this co-operating system, can facilitate an effective science-policy-practice interface.

#3. What structural reforms, capacity-building efforts, and technology

facilitation mechanisms need to be implemented?

The post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs should be understood and handled beyond institutional silos, through collaborative efforts of multiple Ministries or UN Organizations.

Science and technology can and should play key roles throughout the process: the alliance of ICSU, ISSC and Future Earth –working together with other international scientific endeavors – is ready to further contribute to the society. This alliance of ICSU, ISSC and Future Earth should be explicitly recognized as the bridge between the global scientific and technological community and the policy makers in the context of the High-Level Political Forum.

Thank you.