

Statement by Mr. Masaya Sagawa  
Delegation of Japan  
Mining  
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Once, Japan was a country rich in mineral resources and the Government promoted mining in its economic development. This rapid development of the mining industry created various environmental problems. The Government of Japan has strived to overcome these issues by combining regulations, mining supervision, and an effective taxation system.

Japan currently relies on imports from abroad for its mineral resources. Some resources come from projects that Japanese companies own equities and participate in operations abroad. Thus, when the Japanese companies participate in mining operations abroad, they put Japan's experience to use to ensure safe and efficient mining.

Mr. Chairman,

Sustainable mining requires integrated approaches taking account of the three pillars of sustainable development. We should not focus too much on the balance of asset reduction by mining and the revenues from royalties and taxes. Rather we need to adequately evaluate impacts on employment and local development as well as environmental impacts.

Recycling should be promoted in order to ensure the effective use of mineral resources. In Japan recycling is an important resource of metals, the so-called "urban mine." Such recycling, however, requires the establishment of an effective collecting system of waste, as well as the development of technology for efficient separation of metals from waste. In this regard, it is helpful to formulate guidelines which encourage the designing of easily-recycled products.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, economic development of countries with mining industries should be pursued while ensuring transparency of mining sector. The promotion of mining should lead to the development of the local community in tandem with the construction of social infrastructure. In this respect, international governance through the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) should be enhanced so that increases in royalties and taxes result in a strong fiscal foundation and a fair system of economic development. Establishment of local infrastructure development funds using the royalty revenues is also effective.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.