



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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Statement by Mr. Hideki Minamikawa

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High level Segment of 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable

Development

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Thank you, Mr. Chair and distinguish delegates

1. First of all, I would like to reiterate our heartfelt gratitude for your sympathy, condolences and valuable aid and support in the recovery from the disasters that struck Japan in March. I would also like to express sincere gratitude for all the kind words delivered here in New York.

We are really moved and encouraged, noting that we are not alone, and that the international community is with us. We recognize afresh the importance of international cooperation and solidarity.

Our struggle to overcome the crisis is a truly difficult one and it may take not a short time. However, we are determined that we shall reconstruct our nation, actively establish a sustainable society, and ultimately share our experiences with the world.

2. Next, I would like to make a short comment about the theme of CSD-19.

With regard to waste management, Japan proposed the “3R initiative” at the G8 Summit in 2004, and since then, we have contributed to building international framework for the 3Rs, such as the establishment of the “Regional 3R Forum in Asia”. We are also promoting the 3Rs in our own country by implementing the Fundamental Plan for Sound Material-Cycle Society among other policies.

Under these circumstances, we hosted the “CSD Intersessional

Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero Waste” from 16 to 18 February this year in Tokyo. At the conference, the significance of building partnership between stakeholders was widely recognized.

3. In order to present the outcomes of the conference, we will hold a Side Event for CSD19, “Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero Waste” on the afternoon of Thursday, 12 May with UNDESA and other participants.

I hope many of you will participate in the Side Event.

4. With regard to chemical management, Japan highly appreciates the United Nations’ initiative and efforts in the area of chemical management, such as the Stockholm and the Rotterdam Conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

As for the intergovernmental negotiation to develop a global legally binding instrument on mercury, we also highly appreciate your cooperation at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee held in Chiba in January this year and your unanimous support for Japan as host of the Diplomatic Conference to be held in 2013. We will actively contribute to the negotiation underway, as the host country of the Diplomatic Conference and as the country that experienced the tragedy of Minamata disease.

5. Finally, I would like to make a short comment about biodiversity.

Last October, the COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in the city of Nagoya, Japan. 180 parties attended the conference, where the collective wisdom and effort of all participants, through their mutual willingness to compromise, could contribute to the achievement of such outcomes as the adoption of new global targets for biodiversity, or “the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,” as well as the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, which was a long standing issue for CBD.

As the CBD COP10 Presidency, Japan would like to express appreciation for the efforts devoted to the conference by all participants. In order to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and avert the loss of the biodiversity at stake, we intend to contribute to capacity-building in developing countries through the Japan Biodiversity Fund which was established under CBD.

As for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, we also intend to show our dedication

to the early entry into force and steady implementation of the protocol by contributing to the "Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund" under the World Bank. In addition, I am pleased to report that Japan will sign the protocol at the signing ceremony which will be held in the afternoon today.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.