

Statement by Mr. Takeshi Osuga,  
Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations  
At the opening session of CSD-18  
3 May 2010

Mr. Chair,

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you and the Secretariat on the excellent preparations for this session.

I would like to emphasize at the outset the importance of making the three pillars of economic growth, social improvement and environmental protection converge towards the common goal of achieving sustainable development.

To that end, we need to develop a new model of sustainable consumption and production patterns. Japan turned away from being a society of mass production and consumption in 2001 by adopting the Basic Law for Establishing a Recycling-based Society. Japan thus promotes “3R”, which stands for reduce, reuse and recycle.

On chemical waste management, Japan experienced more than fifty years ago the tragedy of mass mercury poisoning called Minamata disease caused by industrial wastewater. Japan will actively contribute to the upcoming negotiations to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury.

Furthermore, my Government collaborates closely with United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) to promote “Environmentally Sustainable Transport” to cope with the negative impacts of rapid economic growth and urbanization in Asia.

These are just a few of the items on which my Delegation wishes to share its experience and initiatives during this Review Session of CSD.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly touch upon my Government’s key priority that puts the global sustainability at risk; climate change and biodiversity loss.

On climate change, we should move forward with the negotiations under the UNFCCC. The Copenhagen Accord was an important step towards an international legally-binding agreement on a fair and effective framework. Broadest possible support to the Accord will help to enhance the negotiation process.

International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 affords us a good opportunity to strengthen our efforts to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss. In October, Japan will host the COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya with the goal of “ambitious, realistic and action-oriented post-2010 biodiversity targets.”

Mr. Chair,

To conclude my remark, I would like to remind the distinguished delegates of the inter-relatedness of various developmental issues at stake. Each of the thematic issues we put focus on at CSD Sessions, should be considered with an insight into the broader picture of sustainable development.

The human security concept Japan promotes, calls for protection and empowerment of every individual so that people, including the future generations, can fully realize their potential and live in dignity. By highlighting the human dimension of each issue, we would better understand the intertwined nature of sustainable development.

In my Delegation’s view, such a human-centered approach is extremely important not only for the success of CSD-18 but also in the run-up to the high-level meetings at the General Assembly in September to discuss MDGs, biodiversity and sustainable development of small island developing states.

Thank you very much.