

JAPAN

Commission on Sustainable Development

CSD15

New York, 30 April – 11 May 2007

CLIMATE CHANGE (1 May, 2007)

Thank you, Chair.

Japan would like to express its sincere gratitude to you, Mr. Chair and the Bureau, to prepare the Report of the IPM and the Secretariat for the preparation of this meeting, and Ambassador Asadi to provide us with the whole picture of the negotiation during this year with hope.

On this matter, Japan believes that strong and credible actions are needed to foster a transition to a global low carbon society and achieve the ultimate goal under the UNFCCC to recover the “primary balance” between the emissions and absorption of GHG, which requires global emissions be reduced to a level less than half of the current emissions at an early stage. For that purpose, Japan has several suggestions, particularly those on the texts included in the Report of IPM. (These suggestions will be provided in a written form.)

(Specific suggestions for change on IPM Chair’s Text)

First of all, on page 13, para 10(e), “including strengthening the carbon market” should be deleted from this part, because long-term strategy on climate change mitigation should be considered comprehensively. In this sense, although Japan recognizes the importance of the roles of carbon markets, it should not be highlighted as the most important components of the long-term strategy.

Second, on page 13, para 10(h), due to its importance, this paragraph should also be included in (E) cross-cutting issues.

Third, on page 13, para 10(j), this sentence should read as “Enhance and conserve carbon sinks and reservoirs through improved land-use management, sustainable forest management, afforestation and reforestation.” Regarding “sustainable forest management,” it is related to the aspects of “expanding sustainable production and use of bioenergy” mentioned at para 3(q) of IPM (ESD) and “promote eco-tourism” mentioned at para 7(h) of IPM (industrial development).

Climate change issues have been discussed inside and outside of the UNFCCC arena, including G8 and Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP). In order to respond to the urgency of climate change problems, it is important for the CSD to work closely with these forums in a collaborative manner, but let me make it clear that the CSD should not duplicate the works under the

negotiation under the UNFCCC process.

Mr. Chair,

Japan would like to make its utmost efforts to make your intention to finish negotiation by this Friday a reality. I am really looking forward to having fruitful discussions here at CSD15 and, Ambassador Asadi, a successful negotiation in SB26 in Bonn starting from this coming Monday.

Thank you, Chair.

(General stance)

(1) Promoting international cooperation on climate change, including both mitigation and adaptation

- ✚ In achieving the ultimate goal under the UNFCCC to recover the “primary balance” between the emissions and absorption of GHG, global emissions need to be reduced to a level less than half of the current emissions at an early stage (according to IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, 57%), and all countries are required under an enlightened sense of solidarity to take effective mitigation measures in accordance with their respective capabilities. Reduction efforts by those Annex- I countries that have concluded the Kyoto Protocol alone are inadequate. Particularly, in relation to the post-2012 regime, maximum reduction efforts by all major emitting countries are indispensable.
- ✚ Climate change issues have been discussed outside of the UNFCCC arena, such as G8 and Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP). In order to respond to the urgency of climate change problems, it is important for the CSD to work closely with these forums and the UNFCCC negotiation process.

(Sectoral approach)

- ✚ Together with the country-based targets like we have under the Kyoto Protocol, sectoral approach with sectoral targets can be observed as an effective method to promote the global reduction of GHG. As it is evident from the IEA’s analysis on energy efficiency and best practices of energy policies, improvement of energy efficiency through applying clean energy technologies will create positive benefits in terms of climate change mitigation, energy security and sustainable development. The works done by the IEA should also be used as a useful reference.

(2) Strengthening international support on adaptation measures

- ✚ Together with the mitigation efforts, adaptation measures to climate change should be designed properly and implemented immediately. Most of the areas identified as the adaptation needs have already covered under the official development aid and other bilateral and multilateral development assistance. In order to design and implement adaptation measures without delay, it is necessary to mainstream adaptation measures within development strategies. Japan has implemented several adaptation measures in developing countries, including capacity building, air

quality improvement, energy saving, and forest management, through ODA-based framework, so-called Kyoto Initiative since 1997. While Japan continues its utmost support under the Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC on adaptation, Japan also continues its efforts under the Kyoto Initiative.

- ✚ Adaptation measures also closely relate to risk reduction efforts across the sectors. Therefore, it is very important to apply the lessons-learned and experiences accumulated under the disaster reduction activities to the adaptation to climate change. In this regard, it is important for the UNFCCC and relevant organizations to work with ISDR in order to design and implement adaptation measures effectively.
- ✚ On financing adaptation, under the umbrella of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, there are some financial mechanisms, namely GEF Trust Fund, LDCF, SCCF and Adaptation Fund, are already implemented or planned to be implemented. It is crucial to utilize all of these funds effectively in order to respond to adaptation needs. However, at the same time, since climate change affects various sectors of the community, it is necessary to consider the ways and means on how to involve private financiers in the circle. On this matter, the expertise at the World Bank and other aid agencies as well as the discussions at the G8 can play a significant role.

(3) Carbon markets

In the IPM Chair's text, the necessity of "strengthening the carbon market" is highlighted as the option for long-term strategy on climate change measures. Japan has a concern on this matter. Long-term strategy on climate change mitigation should be considered comprehensively. In this sense, although Japan recognizes the importance of the roles of carbon markets, Japan believes that it should not be highlighted as if the carbon market is the most important components of the long-term strategy.

Undoubtedly, as the latest IPCC report says, climate change is occurring and affects everybody on the earth. Effective actions should be taken immediately in a concerted manner. Japan reiterates its full commitment to the promotion of emission reduction through further improvement of its energy efficiency, and to the further strengthening of its efforts in diffusing and developing technologies as well as in enhancing international cooperation on both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Thank you, Chair.