

JAPAN

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review 2007

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan offers its congratulations to the Council on the inauguration of the Annual Ministerial Review. My delegation stands ready to contribute to the continuing efforts to strengthen the Council, and we will actively participate in the discussions during this substantive session.

1. Human Security

When we look at the world today, we see that while the proportion of people living on one dollar a day or less has declined overall, the disparities among regions are growing. Poverty is one of the root causes of conflicts, organized crimes and other threats to human life. Since the end of the Cold War, as economic activities have expanded and globalization has progressed, the international community has come to face new threats to people's lives and livelihoods, such as terrorism, environmental degradation, infectious diseases and global warming.

In order to eliminate the disparities and cope with new threats, we must protect individuals and empower them to make choices and act on their own. This is the essence of the concept of human security.

2 Japan's Policy Initiatives

Japan will host both the G8 summit and the TICAD (Tokyo International
midpoint. Although there are many issues that we should address in a comprehensive
manner from the viewpoint of human security, including health, education, and conflict,
I would like to focus today on climate change and infectious diseases, which

Climate change is a challenge that humankind must face united. All countries
therefore must reduce emissions in order to mitigate global warming itself. Japan has
carried out assistance related to mitigation and adaptation. In May of this year, Prime
Minister Abe announced a new proposal on climate change called "Cool Earth 50"

- All major emitters must participate in a post-Kyoto framework, thus moving
beyond the Kyoto Protocol, leading to global reduction of emissions.
- The framework must be flexible and diverse, and taking into consideration the

Developing countries are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change such as water shortages and stronger and more frequent natural disasters. International cooperation is indispensable for enhancing the capacity of developing sustainable development. Japan would like to explore pro-active cooperation measures on mitigation, adaptation and access to clean energy.

4. Infectious Diseases

HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. In order to combat infectious diseases, predictable funding mechanisms are essential. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are examples of non-profit partnerships, whose origins back to the 2000 Okinawa Summit, when G8 leaders, at the initiative of Japan, took up the issue of infectious diseases for the first time. Japan also has already contributed a total of \$660 million to the Global Fund, and reaffirms its commitment to

between 2005 and 2009 and disbursed \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2005. Japan believes that it is important not only to focus on disease-specific assistance but also to build the foundation of a country's health sector by improving health systems, training health care practitioners, and prioritizing child and maternal health and gender issues. Let me give just one example of how we are putting this into practice. Mother and child health checkups, which are check-ups, not just for mothers but also for children, have been years in keen back to their traditional health, weight, nutrition, history, and other vital information have been distributed in Indonesia, where they have contributed to a decline in infant mortality.

to prevent malaria, Japan is contributing 1 billion yen to the Insecticide-treated mosquito nets in Africa. As of May of this year, 4 million nets have been distributed in Indonesia, where they have contributed to a decline in infant mortality. Japan is also contributing 1 billion yen to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which is providing more than 1,000 local jobs and active theater in this year.

Japan is also strengthening collaboration between its own bilateral assistance and that conducted by the United Nations. With the worldwide eradication of polio

5. Africa

I would now like to discuss Africa, which is struggling to overcome poverty, hunger, conflict, infectious disease and other problems, and is lagging behind other regions in its progress towards achieving the MDGs.

At the Asian-African Summit in April 2005, then Prime Minister Koizumi announced that Japan would double its ODA to Africa in the three years beginning 2005.

The TICAD process has been the cornerstone of Japan's active cooperation with Africa. Priorities at TICAD IV are "Boosting Economic Growth," "Ensuring Human Security" and "Addressing Environmental Issues and Climate Change." Under the basic theme "Towards a vibrant Africa," Japan hopes that TICAD IV will provide an important opportunity to mobilize international support for Africa.

Lastly, Mr. President, at this first meeting of the strengthened ECOSOC, I would

development. As you are aware, Japan assumed the chairmanship of the Organization Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission last month, a duty that we take very seriously. In all of its undertakings, Japan will strive to contribute to the efforts in addressing priority issues in peacebuilding activities.

Thank you very much.