

Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

866 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017 Phone: (212) 223-4300 · www.un.int/japan/

(Please check against delivery)

Statement by Dr. Yoriko Meguro
Representative of Japan
At the Fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women
March 4, 2009
New York

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chair, and other members of the Bureau for playing an important role to facilitate and organize the discussion, as you did last year.

Mr. Chairperson,

The priority theme for this year, "Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS" is the core issue in discussing gender equality. It has been pointed out that stereotyped notion of gender roles – not limited to caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS – puts disproportionate impacts on women, deprives women of opportunities including income generation, and prevents women from establishing the base for their independence.

The issue of HIV/AIDS is, in itself, a substantial challenge in social development. We have, however, reaffirmed on various occasions that this issue is even more serious when looked at in sender perspective. For example, women and girls are not only subparable to UIV/AIDS

Awareness-raising activities on gender roles are among such measures. A recent poll shows that more than half of the respondents were against the notion of "husbands as breadwinners and wives as caregivers". Thus, people's perceptions are changing.

Unfortunately, however, unequal gender division of responsibilities continues to exist. In Japan, data shows that women spend seven times longer time than men per day for domestic work, although the difference is on the decrease. Also, with regard to caregiving to the family mapphone reachly 2004 is an exercise should be in terms of total house great Family

sharing of responsibilities is also essential in coping with the problem of declining fertility and aging of our society. At the end of 2007, the "Council of Public and Private Sectors to Promote Work-Life Balance" consisting of relevant ministers and representatives of business community, labor circle and local governments decided on Charter for Work-Life Balance and the Action Policy for Promoting Work-Life Balance. The Action Policy contains specific

numerical targets including on time to be spent for child-raising and housework by men who

hildren underson 6. The accusement in postnesship with the assistance to accept in resistante

At last year's TICAD IV, Japan pointed out the importance of gender equality such as advancement and protection of women's rights and empowerment of women, and took up global health including addressing infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS as an important issue. At the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, Japan, as chair, released "Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health", which clearly stipulated the importance of efforts by G8 to address the issue of health and set up a mechanism to follow up past G8 commitments. Japan will remain committed to cooperation to fight HIV/AIDS, acknowledging the significance of gender mainstreaming in the context of development.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year, the Commission took up a very timely theme, "The gender perspectives of the financial crisis." Japan is no exception in terms of deteriorating economic situation stemming from last year's financial crisis. Dismissal of non-regular workers and the increasing unemployment rate are becoming assistant to the property of the commission of the com