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# *Japan*

Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Tsutomu Osawa,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan  
at the 40th Session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO

Vienna, 20-22 November 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the fortieth session of the Industrial Development Board. I am sure that this session will prove to be successful under your able leadership and commitment. I would also like to thank the outgoing Chairman, H.E. Ambassador Cho of the Republic of Korea, together with his Bureau, for their devoted work.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan appreciates the efforts made by UNIDO during 2012 to improve the overall performance of the Organization. The Organization has shown perseverance and willingness to achieve its set goals despite staff and budgetary constraints. We congratulate UNIDO for the positive trend seen in the volume of funding received for technical cooperation through active resource mobilization. In particular, Japan stresses the importance of having a diversified donor base and welcomes UNIDO's initiatives towards this goal. Japan applauds the Organization for reaching a record-high of \$166.7 million in technical cooperation delivery in the year 2011, and appreciates the Secretariat's update on expected technical cooperation delivery figures for 2012, showing an estimated amount of \$184 million. Japan praises UNIDO and its staff for their continuous efforts in ensuring the stable delivery of the Organization's services and maintaining constant high quality of its projects through challenging times.

One important factor that contributes to the continuity and success of the Organization's projects is the creation of new, and strengthening of already existing partnerships with other UN organizations, the private sector and NGOs, especially in the field. We look forward to seeing this enhanced in the future.

Japan remains a firm supporter of UNIDO's three thematic priorities: poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building and energy and environment. It is clear that the continued strong focus on these areas has contributed greatly to the Organization's growth. Japan encourages UNIDO to continue to focus on niche areas where it has a comparative advantage hence creating value added.

Japan notes that as a follow up to Rio+20, Director-General Yumkella has identified four areas of interest to UNIDO: The Green Industry Platform, industrial energy efficiency, agribusiness combined with industrial upgrading and trade capacity building for jobs, as well as strategies for low-carbon and low-emission industrial development. Especially in this last area, the Japanese Government has cooperated with UNIDO throughout the past year. The East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue held in Tokyo this past April attracted ministers from East Asia and representatives of international organizations, including high-level participation from UNIDO. Participants at the two-day event shared the view that low-carbon growth is crucial for sustainable economic growth. Follow-up actions to the Dialogue have been taken, one of which is the East Asia Knowledge Platform for Low Carbon Growth providing a platform for exchange of information, and the possibility to network amongst various stakeholders. Japan's recent contribution towards a UNIDO Low Carbon Growth Project in East Asia also falls in line with the activities in this area.

Japan lays large part of its focus on projects concentrating on capacity-building measures for youth and women's empowerment. Enhancing the human security of socially vulnerable groups remains a priority for the Japanese Government and we are pleased to see that this compliments the Organization's activities within its mandate on sustainable development. Our largest commitment in 2012 was made towards UNIDO's activities in Africa. The Japanese Government funded vocational training projects to increase employment opportunities and income generation for vulnerable groups worth a total of over \$7 million in Africa. Looking into the future, Japan will continue to focus on Africa, and has already begun with a first

initiative. The 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) will take place in Japan in June 2013. This Conference will build on the success of prior events and once again offer a forum for a wide variety of topics related to development in Africa. UNIDO's active participation is most welcome.

Mr. Chairman,

The selection process for the Organization's new Director-General is in its early stages. Japan takes note of the Conference Paper distributed outlining the proposed procedure for a candidates' forum aligned to the modalities of the CTBTO, and expresses its support for this approach. Our Government hopes for a smooth transition between the outgoing and the incoming Director-General so as not to compromise the Organization's efficiency. To this end we believe that it would be advisable to incorporate flexibility and practicability in our approach on this matter.

Mr. Chairman,

Touching briefly upon the financial situation of UNIDO, the Government of Japan is pleased to note the Organization's sound financial management during this year. For the sake of financial stability of the Organization, Japan continues to encourage those Member States who have not yet paid their arrears to do so without delay. Early payment of contributions ensures the smooth continuation of UNIDO's activities which is in the interest of all.

Japan would also like to mention that it welcomes the Secretariat's initiative in holding early consultations on the next budget cycle with Member States.

Turning to the Programme for Change and Organizational Renewal (PCOR), Japan appreciates UNIDO's continuous promotion and implementation of this important initiative. UNIDO's staff members have been engaged in the implementation of the ERP/SAP system in parallel to their regular activities, and we commend the initiative shown. We ask that UNIDO stay focused on the quality of the PCOR and its overall targets to ensure long-term benefits for all. We are keen to hear more on the progress made within the context of the PCOR's key principles, especially in the field of Results-Based Management, and the expected effects that the PCOR will have on the strengthening of UNIDO's presence in the field. Japan hopes that

after full implementation of the ERP/SAP system, both Member States and the Organization will greatly benefit from improvements in transparency and access to information.

Last but not least, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express the Government of Japan's congratulations to Director-General Yumkella on his new position as Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and Chief Executive Officer of the new UN initiative. We are confident that Dr. Yumkella will excel in this position, as he has done in guiding UNIDO through the past years. His leadership and commitment have been vital for the Organization and the remarkable achievements it has made under Dr. Yumkella's wing.

Japan's remains committed towards UNIDO and its important work in these changing and challenging times.

Thank you.

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**Statement on behalf of the Japanese delegation  
at the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board  
20-22 November 2012**

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<Afternoon of 20 November>

Agenda item 4. Report of the Programme and Budget Committee including  
sub-items

Mr. Chairman,

As for sub-item (b), introduction of digital recordings, Japan welcomes the UNIDO Secretariat's proposal and supports the proposed draft decision from the viewpoint of cost saving.

Thank you.

Japan

<Morning of 21 November>

Agenda item 5. Activities of the Evaluation Group

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the report on the activities of the Evaluation Group which is presented before the Board according to the three purposes set in UNIDO's Evaluation Policy: to assure accountability, support management and drive learning and innovation. Japan fully approves of these three purposes since they make an important contribution to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. We also appreciate the periodical briefings offered to Member States and wish that this be continued in the future.

The evaluation report provides a valuable input on how to maximize the quality of technical cooperation and management within the Organization. Japan notes with satisfaction that the cost-effectiveness of UNIDO projects has been generally evaluated as high. Nevertheless, Japan also notes that several points for improvement have been identified. We take special note of the state of inter-branch cooperation, as pointed out in paragraph 7, the results-based monitoring system, as pointed out in paragraph 8, improving efficiency in implementation, as pointed out in paragraph 14 and enhancing ownership in the projects, as pointed out in paragraph 26.

Japan would like to encourage UNIDO to follow up on the recommendations of the Evaluation Group and stresses the importance of taking appropriate actions to improve the quality of technical cooperation and management.

Thank you.

Agenda item 6. Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, and continues to encourage UNIDO to consider appropriate responses promptly.

Japan very much appreciates the UNIDO Secretariat's effort in responding to our requests made at the previous session of the Industrial Development Board individually. However, we would like to be provided with more information on the state of implementation of the recommendations, and believe that such kind of information should be more easily accessible to interested Member States.

In this context, Japan reiterates that we strongly look forward to the improved modality of the annex summary report. Concretely, we would like to recommend that UNIDO mention the state of acceptance, and provide a detailed status of implementation of each recommendation in the report.

Continuing in this matter, we are especially interested in south-south and triangular cooperation, accountability frameworks and procurement reforms, and would appreciate if UNIDO could explain what action has been taken in these fields in response to the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations.

Thank you.

Agenda item 7. UNIDO activities in environment and energy

Mr. Chairman,

Japan highly values UNIDO's continued efforts related to the fields of environment and energy. As environment and energy are issues that have a large world-wide impact, Japan welcomes the initiative taken by UNIDO in these areas, and would like to once more offer our congratulations to Director-General Yumkella who has been appointed UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and Chief Executive Officer of the initiative.

In the following we would like to briefly touch upon Japan's contributions in these areas.

Firstly, as mentioned in Document IDB.40/15, in cooperation with UNIDO, Japan exhibited environmentally friendly technologies of mainly SMEs at the side event of Rio+20 Conference.

Secondly, Japan has decided to fund the amount of 1 million Euro for UNIDO projects using low-head micro hydropower mini grids, to be implemented in rural India. This project aims to increase the number of people with access to sustainable energy, and to promote innovative technologies with the prospect of delivering long-term green growth and jobs for the benefit of local communities.

Japan believes that these projects will contribute to the strengthening of UNIDO's activities in the area of environment and energy, and also hopes that this contribution will support UNIDO in producing tangible results and increasing its visibility in these areas.

Thank you.

Japan

<Afternoon of 21 November>

Agenda item 9. Personnel matters

Mr. Chairman,

Japan appreciates the Secretariat's continuous efforts towards better human resource management. We look forward to the upcoming briefing to Member States on human resource management.

The Japanese Government takes careful note of the information provided in document IDB.40/18 and comments as follows.

First of all, Japan appreciates the improvement in the number of appointments by nationalities as shown not only in list A countries but also in other lists' countries. Japan also welcomes the provision of various personnel information such as the situation of separations and reassignments.

Japan also welcomes UNIDO's effort towards personnel policy development, especially the introduction of the new UNIDO Framework for Staff Performance Management. We are interested in this system and its current practice, and hope that appropriate and sufficient information will be provided to interested Member States in this regard.

On the matter of decentralization, Japan reiterates its belief that strengthening the field is critical for UNIDO in order to deliver high-quality technical cooperation. Therefore, Japan firmly supports the policy of decentralization. We would however like to point out that creating an appropriate system and posting human resources which are qualified to operate field offices efficiently and effectively are necessary steps to realize true decentralization. In this view, Japan kindly urges UNIDO to also consider these recommended steps.

Thank you.