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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 41st Session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO

Vienna, 24-27 June 2013

Adenda item 3. Annual Report of the Director General for 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the forty-first session of the Industrial Development Board, along with your bureau members. I am confident that this session will prove to be successful under your able guidance and commitment. I would also like to thank the outgoing Chairman, H.E. Ambassador CSUDAY of Hungary, for his devoted work.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan appreciates the efforts made by UNIDO and its staff during 2012 to improve the overall performance of UNIDO and to achieve its goals despite budgetary constraints. We congratulate UNIDO for the positive trend seen in the volume of funding received for its activities. In this regard, we stress the importance of having a diversified donor base and welcome UNIDO's initiatives towards this goal.

Japan also applauds the Organization for reaching a record-high of \$189.2 million in technical cooperation delivery in the year 2012. At the same time, the sustainability of this rapid growth, while the regular budget remains at the same level or is even reduced, needs to be carefully assessed, with a view to ensuring qualitative technical cooperation services in future years.

We would like to also note that one important factor that contributes to the continuity and

success of UNIDO's projects is the creation of new partnerships, and the strengthening of already existing ones with other UN organizations, the private sector and NGOs, especially in the field. We look forward to seeing this enhanced in the future.

Japan encourages UNIDO to further focus on niche areas where it has a comparative advantage hence creating value added. Japan's ongoing cooperation activities with the Organization illustrate our understanding of the strength of UNIDO's work and the need to fulfill the mandate bestowed upon the Organization by its members.

In the field of productive capacity building, Japan is cooperating with UNIDO in various projects in Africa and Asia, one aim of which is to give vulnerable members of society, such as young people and women, the skills to become self-sustainable. In the area of trade capacity building and cooperation with the private sector, one of Japan's biggest retailers, AEON, and UNIDO have launched a programme that aims to increase the certified and sustainable sourcing of products and to improve business links with local suppliers in Malaysia. Turning to the field of low-carbon growth, I would like to highlight Japan's most recent contribution through the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to the realization of a collaboration program with the aim of assisting developing countries, with a special focus on Africa. We had the honor to receive Director-General Yumkella in Japan at the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) earlier this month along with other dignitaries, where the quality growth issue and the role of private sector as engines of development in Africa were discussed.

Now turning to financial issues briefly, Japan takes note of the financial situation of the Organization and appreciates the efforts being made by Member States in servicing their financial obligations. Japan urges Member States and former Member States that have not yet paid their assessed contributions to do so without delay, for the sake of the financial stability of the organization, and to ensure the smooth continuation of UNIDO's activities, which is in the interest of all.

Thank you.

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**Statement on behalf of the Japanese delegation
at the 41th Session of the Industrial Development Board
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<Morning of 26 June>

Agenda item 5. Programme and Budgets, 2014-2015

Mr. Chairman,

As for the budget 2014-2015, Japan appreciates the prompt and appropriate response by the Secretariat to adapt the 2014-2015 budget to recent developments while respecting the principle stipulated in IDB.39/Decision7. The Secretariat's approach, which minimizes the negative impact of budget cuts on UNIDO's programmatic activities and maximizes efficiency gains, is very much welcomed. Uncertainties still remain, including the Resident Coordinator System issue and the possibility of further Member States withdrawing from the Organization. We appreciate the Secretariat keeping us informed on these topics on a regular basis. Japan is ready to support the Director-General's revised budget proposal contained in document IDB.41/5/ and IDB.41/5/Addendum1 on the basis of strict cost saving and rationalization efforts, as well as the further prioritization of the Organization's activities.

Thank you.

<Afternoon of 26 June>

Agenda item 8. UNIDO activities in environment and energy

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes UNIDO's continued efforts and initiatives in the fields of environment and energy.

Japan also has engaged in these fields actively. Most recently, Japan hosted the 2nd East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue with high-level participation from UNIDO this past May. At the beginning of this month, we co-hosted the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in Yokohama, with the participation of Director-General Yumkella and other UNIDO staff members. One of the aims of the conference was to build a resilient society to climate change to facilitate sustainable development. The Yokohama declaration and Yokohama action plan, which include commitments to promoting sustainable and resilient growth, were adopted.

We would also like to touch briefly upon Japan's contributions associated with UNIDO in these fields. In the environmental field, as mentioned in Document IDB.41/18, Japan launched a project with a budget of 1.5 million Euro, to promote low carbon and climate resilient industrial development in four African countries. Another project, funded to the tune of 0.5 million Euro, to support low carbon growth in three Asian countries, has already been started as well.

In the energy field, a project, which aims to increase the number of people with access to sustainable energy by using low-head micro hydropower mini grids, is being implemented in rural India.

Japan believes that these projects will contribute to strengthening UNIDO's activities in these areas and will support UNIDO in producing tangible results and increasing its visibility.

Thank you.

Agenda item 9. Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and appreciates UNIDO's active engagement in the JIU meetings. Furthermore, Japan notes with satisfaction the JIU's evaluation that UNIDO remained one of the organizations which shows consistently strong performance regarding the status of acceptance, as mentioned in paragraph 32 of the Document IDB.41/16

We would like to request UNIDO continue its consideration of the matters raised by the JIU, especially the management of sick leave, lump-sum payments in lieu of entitlements, flexible working arrangements, and a review of individual consultancies.

Bearing in mind the JIU's recommendations, we hope UNIDO will provide Member States reports on sick leave, including statistical and cost data, and measures taken by UNIDO to reduce sick leave absenteeism, as mentioned in JIU/REP/2012/2, and also the analytical information on individual consultancies, which is mentioned in JIU/REP/2012/5.

Japan welcomes the introduction of JIU's new web-based tracking system (WBTS), through which Member States are able to access the status of implementation of its recommendations. We appreciate this information and hope we can develop the discussion on the matters raised by the JIU with the UNIDO Secretariat by utilizing this system.

Thank you.

<Morning of 27 June>

Agenda item 10. Personnel matters

Mr. Chairman,

Japan appreciates the Secretariat's continuous efforts towards better human resource management and the introduction of a new Staff Performance Management system including 360 degrees performance feedback as scheduled.

We especially welcome the fact that it is envisaged that the effects of the new SPM system shall be closely monitored, adapted with lessons learned and allowed to mature so that it achieves the desired culture change, as stated in paragraph 2 of the Document IDB.41/19. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that Japan hopes that efficient information on the practice and effects of this system will be provided to interested Member States.

Thank you.