

Statement by Tamayo Marukawa, Minister of the Environment of Japan, at COP 21

Thank you, Mr. President and distinguished delegates.

First of all, I would like to express my deepest condolences on the lives taken away and the injured by those horrible terror attacks. In the meantime, let me express my sincere gratitude to France for the excellent leadership as the COP21 Presidency. Japan also dedicates all of our efforts for the successful outcomes in the Paris agreement.

Climate change is an urgent threat for human beings and the planet. It is a sign of the progress in our global efforts that the INDCs covering more than 95% of the total emission have been submitted.

On the other hand, it is indicated that further mitigation efforts beyond the INDCs are required for achieving the 2-degree goal. In terms of global emission reduction, we need to make the framework applicable to all and effective as much as possible.

The Paris Agreement should enhance our ambition to reduce emissions over time by setting a global long term goal, a cycle whereby all Parties revisit and update their mitigation contribution every 5 years, and a unified but flexible transparency system that requires every country to report and to be reviewed on the progress of its implementation. We also support provisions of Global Stocktake in the legal agreement. It is important that each party utilizes the outcome of the global stocktake when developing its future actions.

Japan steadily undertakes the emission reduction action in accordance with the long term goal which we have expressed in our future vision internationally and domestically. We submitted a target of 26% emission reduction of GHG by 2030. We will steadily implement the measures to achieve the target. We will establish a Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures as soon as possible based on the COP21 agreement. Beyond that, we have the long term goal of emission reduction of GHG by 2050 in the Basic Environmental Plan. We

address the climate change issue, through the transformation of the economy and social systems and lifestyles.

We utilize the tax revenue from the “Carbon Tax as Global Warming Measures,” which we introduced in 2012, to improve energy efficiency and to promote renewable energy nation-wide. We also attempt to develop and promote innovative low carbon products and technologies following LED.

The outcome of those measures is emerging. The total GHG emission in Japan had been increasing since the time around the Great East Japan Earthquake, until 2014 when it was reduced by 3% from the previous year. We will proactively promote the global warming measures furthermore.

In recent years Japan has been hit by extreme weather events such as powerful typhoons the negative impacts of global warming become noticeable without distinction between developing countries and developed ones. Japan has recently developed its national adaptation plan based on detailed impact assessment, and will implement concrete measures according to the plan.

During the Leaders Event, Prime Minister Abe announced the “Actions for Cool Earth 2.0 (ACE 2.0)”. In order to support developing countries which take actions to cope with climate change, Japan will provide, in 2020, approximately 1.3 trillion Japanese yen of public and private climate finance, 1.3 times up from the current level, to developing countries. Also by strengthening the development of innovative technologies, Japan will strongly uphold global climate action.

Japan has established the Joint Crediting Mechanism with 16 countries. 50 registered projects are implemented including the installation of energy conservation facility at a cement factory in Indonesia and the improvement of transmission efficiency in Vietnam.

We will continue with the steady and concrete international contributions through the inter-city cooperation and capacity building programs, by utilizing our leading low-carbon technologies, experiences and human resources on environmental management.

Taking advantage of our experiences on the Japan's adaptation planning, we will contribute to global transformation to climate resilient society by supporting for the development of adaptation plans and climate change impact assessments in developing countries. We are also making efforts to strengthen the knowledge sharing networks, such as the Global Adaptation Network (GAN) in order to share information and experiences across the region.

This COP21 is a starting point for the world to collectively tackle with climate change. I swear to do my best to contribute to the success of COP21 in order to meet the strong will that leaders of states have shown.

Thank you.

(December 7th, 2015 in Paris)