

[Agenda Item 11: UNIDO's activities in the environment and energy] Ms. Horikawa

Mme President,

Japan takes note of document IDB.49/18 regarding UNIDO's activities in the environment and energy. We welcome the progress made in these areas in line with the strategic priority and General Conference resolution GC.18/Res.7, which calls for further contribution towards climate neutrality and the circular economy.

Mme President,

The COVID-19 crisis and subsequent recovery provide us with an opportunity to consider redesigning current socioeconomic and sociocultural systems to become more sustainable and resilient.

Japan will strengthen its climate action based upon its 2050 Carbon Neutral Declaration. UNIDO has been one of Japan's important partners in promoting clean energy. The LCET Programme and the Geothermal power generation project aim at enhancing the clean energy infrastructure in African countries, utilizing innovative technologies of Japan's private sector. Japan will intensify the cooperation with UNIDO based upon the joint declaration signed between UNIDO and the Ministry of Environment of Japan last year. A new UNIDO project is currently under preparation, which aims to scale up cooperation with developing countries under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

(For interpretation)

Our cooperation in the promotion of circular economy was also strengthened. Japan has decided to finance a new UNIDO project in Egypt with approx. 3.6 million USD, to support tackling marine plastic litter. This project is based on research conducted in four African countries, and is expected to create a synergy with an already effective project in South Africa. Furthermore, Japan appreciates the Global Consultations on Circular Economy, for which Japan nominated three Government and Industry experts. We request UNIDO to best synergize this initiative with others, in order to scale up the impact of the outcome of productive discussions among the experts and UNIDO.

We also placed special focus on circular economy and carbon neutrality in the UNIDO-Japan Webinar Series. In the first webinar held on June 29, more than 270 participants heard panelists discuss how to leverage cooperation in these areas, to promote green recovery and thereby the SDGs.

Japan hopes that UNIDO contribute to the path towards a greener socio-economic transformation, both by implementing concrete projects on the ground and by leading and providing useful input to global discussions.

Thank you. (END)