

# Japan

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Takeshi NAKANE  
Permanent Representative of Japan  
and  
Head of the Japanese Delegation  
to  
the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at  
the Thirteenth Session of the General Conference of UNIDO

Vienna, 7 December 2009

(Item 22. Appointment of the Director-General)

Mr. President,

Japan would like to join the other Member States in extending its warmest congratulations to Dr. Kandeh Yumkella on his re-appointment as Director-General of UNIDO. Japan would also like to seize this opportunity to commend Dr. Yumkella for the strong leadership he has exercised in guiding UNIDO over the last four years, and looks forward to working closely with him to further advance our common endeavors in his second term.

Thank you.

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my warmest congratulations on your election as President of the General Conference. I am confident that this session will prove to be truly successful under your leadership.

(Overall Perception)

Mr. President,

UNIDO plays an indispensable role in promoting industrial development, particularly for attaining our joint-effort Millennium Development Goals, and we believe that efficiency and effectiveness should be the guiding principles for all UNIDO activities in order to achieve them. It is with this in mind that Japan welcomes UNIDO's unique approach of defining all its activities under three clear and focused thematic priorities: "Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities", "Trade Capacity Building" and "Energy and Environment."

The current global economic crisis has affected us all and has brought upon us new and complex challenges. It has also reminded us of the fundamental importance of the manufacturing sector in achieving sustainable development, now also with an eye towards more resource-efficient and cleaner low-carbon production patterns, which will enable us to open up new business opportunities for economic growth.

(Green Industry and Japan's effort)

Mr. President,

Japan is a nation that lays great value on the protection of the environment. As Prime Minister Hatoyama stated at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change in September, the Japanese government has set an ambitious target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020, if compared to the 1990 level.

Indeed, Japan shares in a continuous history with UNIDO in the area of climate change. Dr. Yumkella played an important role as a moderator on climate change mitigation and energy access during last year's 4<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development, known as "TICAD". As per a request from the Government of Japan, UNIDO, together with UNDP, has been formulating programmes at an estimated cost of 3 million US dollars in Nigeria and Kenya, in order to address climate change in Africa. In addition, a UNIDO Secretariat delegation visited Japan in April 2009 with a view toward acquiring the most current information on Japanese green technology and its management systems, such as the 3R system: "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle".

The International Conference on Green Industry, which was held in September in the Philippines, was a good opportunity for Asian countries, including Japan, to exchange views towards gearing discussion on green industry from intangible ideas to concrete terms.

In our globalized world, we simply cannot disregard the impact of industrial

development on the planet's environment. Japan hopes that UNIDO will continue to strike a key balance between industrial development and the environment and contribute its share toward the well-being of people across the globe.

(Towards a more efficient and effective agency)

Mr. President,

Japan pays tribute to Dr. Yurakella for the strong leadership he has exercised in guiding UNIDO's on-going reform. Japan particularly values the continually successful achievement of technical cooperation deliveries while UNIDO strives to keep itself lean. The recent trend of an increasing amount of voluntary contributions and the collecting of late payers' contributions are among the signs of a positive evaluation of UNIDO's work by Member States. Japan believes that a clear strategy for expanding donor bases and the return of former Member States is vital to UNIDO's being a truly global organization.

The strengthening of field offices under the Field Mobility Policy is ongoing and should be commensurate with the human and financial capacities of UNIDO's headquarters. With a large number of senior staff due to retire soon, a timely recruitment process, together with a clear-cut strategy, is essential in order to ensure the organization's institutional memory and its future.

In this context, Japan has given serious consideration to the Secretariat's proposal regarding change management via the usage of unutilized balances of appropriations. The change management proposal envisages a wide variety of needs, from enhancing the organization's ability to meet a fast-growing portfolio of funded and fundable technical cooperation projects to ensuring better systems for monitoring results and resources spent. Japan recognizes that the proposal includes these funds as being non-recurrent, having resulted solely from UNIDO's tireless efforts for late payment collection, and that the uses of the fund.

are aimed at maximizing efficiency and possibly leading to future savings.

A variety of views on this issue have been presented during open-minded informal consultations, for example, the need for an effective monitoring system of implementation, as well as due consideration needing to be given for national legislation and the budgetary systems of Member States. In the case of Japan, should an opt-in or opt-out approach be taken, Japan will not be able to surrender or contribute its portion of the unutilized balances to UNIDO, taking due account of its domestic process. However, Mr. President, with "Vienna's spirit", Japan stands ready to continue its active participation in seeking an outcome on this issue during this conference. Japan believes that such common efforts made by all parties concerned will definitely contribute to ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of UNIDO in years to come.

(Technical Cooperation and UNIDO-Japan cooperation)

Mr. President,

Japan pays tribute to the Secretariat's continued efforts towards enhancing the quality and impact of its technical cooperation programmes. It is important that UNIDO work closely with other UN agencies and international financial institutions, which enable the organization to achieve greater synergies, make more efficient use of resources, and avoid the duplication of activities. In this regard, Japan values the continued expansion of UNIDO's access to international funds, such as the Global Environmental Facility, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, and the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

We note with satisfaction the successful outcome of human security and post-crisis rehabilitation activities, as well as other positive developments made thus far in the Multi-stakeholder Programme for Productive and Decent Work for Youth in West Africa, to which Japan contributed funds for its implementation. Japan highly values this initiative and

Innovative programme, which promotes youth ownership and leadership by assisting in identifying, designing, and implementing youth-led business projects.

Further to this, Japan would like to make a special note of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. Under the Trust Fund and strictly within its mandate, UNIDO has implemented 12 projects amounting to 12 million US dollars, including 5 projects jointly implemented with other UN agencies, in Sudan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Malawi, Guinea, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ghana, and Laos. This year, three more projects in Indonesia, Armenia and Thailand have been approved for UNIDO as an important part of its joint UN programmes. Japan welcomes the initiatives taken by UNIDO and hopes that it continues to do so.

(TICAD, South-South Cooperation, and Public-Private Partnerships)

Mr. President,

UNIDO's cooperation under the TICAD process has also continued. TICAD recognizes the importance of increasing trade and investment between Africa and Asia, and Japan valued UNIDO's playing an important role at the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa-Asia Business Forum in Uganda in June 2009, where 330 participants from 29 African states and 6 Asian and Middle Eastern countries participated. The Forum fostered a number of business negotiations and resulted in 13 MOU's worth approximately 2.25 million US dollars. These MOUs indicate that Public-Private Partnerships cannot be neglected when discussing the impact of UNIDO's activities. In this context, Japan requests UNIDO to include both the ITPO network and private sector partnerships when it designs and formulates its programmes and reporting systems.

(Visibility and Concluding remarks)

Mr. President,

Japan is pleased to observe a clear consciousness of the importance of visibility permeating UNIDO staff. Dr. Yumkella's service as the UN Energy-Chair and his appointment as Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change are testimony to the rewards of this trend. Japan believes that UNIDO will be able to enhance its visibility further through more focused and prioritized activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay my highest tribute and express my best wishes to Dr. Yumkella for his skilled leadership in making UNIDO a more efficient and effective organization.

This concludes the statement of Japan.

Thank you for your kind attention.