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Statement by Minister of the Environment, Japan
Ryu Matsumoto

Thank you, Madam President.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mexican Government, and especially to you, Madam President, for taking the initiative and leadership.

Madam President,

The Earth is not just for us, but also for our children. We have a responsibility to hand over the Planet to our next generation keeping it in good shape. Now is the time that the world should share the recognition of the scientific view that the increase in global average temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius, and should take actions to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale.

I would like to continue to urge all parties to share the goal of achieving at least 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050 which has been proposed by Japan. Japan itself is determined to take the lead in steering toward a low carbon society.

To achieve this long-term goal, it is essential to establish a new, fair and effective legal framework with the participation of all major economies all over the world. The outcome of here, in Cancun, should be the package of decisions to reduce emissions by both developed and developing countries in a transparent manner, and to strengthen developed countries' support to developing countries. Japan would like to positively contribute to the endeavors to reach consensus in close cooperation with the Mexican Presidency.

Madam President,

Japan is ready to undertake a legal obligation to reduce emissions under a fair and effective international framework with the participation of all major economies. Premising of the framework, Japan has submitted an ambitious target of 25% reduction from 1990 level under the Copenhagen Accord.

The Kyoto Protocol has been playing a significant role as the first step in addressing climate change. I assure that Japan will maintain the spirit of Kyoto. However, the Protocol covers only 27% of global energy-related CO2 emissions. Would you think that it truly addresses the risks emerged globally by climate change, such as sea level rise? Japan would express our serious concern that setting the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol rather results in fixing such a framework with the limited participation, and loses momentum of constructing an effective legal framework with the participation of all major economies. Therefore, Japan will not associate itself with setting the second commitment period. The new international framework should be established based on the Copenhagen Accord, as it covers countries representing more than 80% of global energy-related CO2 emissions.

Japan, as a Kyoto Party, will faithfully achieve its 6% reduction target, and continue to take the lead in further strengthening reduction efforts after 2012. The Kyoto Protocol does exist after 2012, and the role of the Kyoto Protocol will continue to be discussed even after Cancun.

Madam President,

The Government of Japan submitted to the Diet a domestic legislation, covering a wide range of measures to be taken, among others; emissions trading system, tax for measures against global warming and feed-in tariff system for renewable energy, in order to achieve our ambitious target submitted under the Copenhagen Accord. The legislation is now under consideration in the Diet.

In addition, Japan committed around 15 billion dollars of fast-start financing for developing countries that tackle with mitigation and adaptation. 367 projects in 82 countries have already been implemented to the value of more than 7.2 billion dollars as of September this year. We would like to continue to provide steadily and smoothly assistance that reflects the needs of developing countries.

Moreover, Japan has played a leading role by serving as a co-chair of the REDD+ Partnership and hosting Aichi-Nagoya Ministerial Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership. Based on the future direction of the REDD+ efforts agreed in Nagoya, the Partners are now finalizing the 2011-2012 Work Program.

Madam President,

Japan would like to support the Mexican Presidency, and, in cooperation with other Parties, contribute to the discussions constructively toward the success of this meeting.

I thank you very much for your attention.