

Japan

Statement

by Mr. Sukio IWATARE

Head of the Delegation of Japan
Minister of State, Director General of the Environment Agency

and

by Mr. Noboru ENDO

Parliamentary Vice-Minister
of International Trade and Industry

at the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties
of the Framework Convention on Climate Change

17 July, 1996

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Head of the Delegation of Japan
Minister of State
Director General of the Environment Agency
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Minister in Charge of Global Environment
at
the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties
to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
17, July, 1996, Geneva

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen;

It is a great honor for me as the representative of Japan to express my congratulations to H. E. Minister of Environment and Tourism Chen Chimutengwende on assuming the Presidency of this Session of the Conference, and I express my heartfelt confidence that under your distinguished leadership, our discussions will result in significant achievements.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of the Swiss Federation, and H.E. the Mayor, and the people of Geneva for their gracious hospitality.

Also, let me express deep gratitude to Executive Secretary Michael Zammit Cutajar, and to all of the members of the Secretariat for their hard work in putting this Conference together.

Mr. Chairman,

As was stated in the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change announced in December 1995, global warming is expected to have a wide-ranging and serious influence on human life and the natural eco-system in the case that the concentration of carbon dioxide is doubled from the level in pre-industrialized period. The IPCC Second Assessment Report indicates a significant body of evidence to suggest discernible human influence on global climate. The report also makes clear the necessity for a greater range of measures at the earliest possible time.

Those responsible for politics must give serious consideration to these scientific and technical information in the formulation of policy. Measures must be taken to prevent dangerous effects. In the world of increasing inter-dependence, in order to adopt a challenging policy, we have to work together in an internationally coordinated way in addition to the effect by individual initiative at home. I am confident that the distinguished leaders gathered here today are committed to maximizing the efforts of their respective countries and doing their utmost to formulate a wise international agreement that could draw the efforts from each party. I am convinced that we all share a commitment to sharing this.

Mr. Chairman,

It is essential that we, gathered here at this Conference, reconfirm the decisions of the First Session of the Conference of the Parties, and that a steady step be made toward the adoption of a protocol or other legal documents necessary to create a comprehensive framework to limit and reduce levels of greenhouse gas emissions in developed country Parties beyond the year 2000. At the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties, we must adopt a legal instrument which is environmentally effective and highly feasible to implement. In order to achieve this, we still have a lot to discuss, and it is vital that our discussions be accelerated. We should agree that taking the opportunity of this session to shift our emphasis from

analysis and assessment to negotiation by consolidating the points and proposals which have been put forward.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan believes that six points should be reflected as basic concepts in the legal instrument to be formulated; these are precautionary measures, environmental effectiveness, equitable and efficient distribution of policy efforts, positive direction and positive efforts, creation of a foundation for world-wide measures, and active use of technologies.

Based upon these recognitions, the Government of Japan presented a suggestion at the Ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate(AGBM) held last week with regard to QELROs. This suggestion aims to strengthen the effort of each country for the 21st century with differentiated targets among countries, by applying the rates of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of activities such as GDP, within the broad framework of reducing total carbon dioxide emissions of developed countries over the medium-to long-term, without loosening current commitments by each party under the Convention. However, Japan does not insist solely on this particular idea of carbon dioxide emission rates, and we welcome other proposals that are more feasible and more effective in achieving environmental conservation, and we wish to advance our work to further develop the discussions at the AGBM and give shape to it.

Mr. Chairman,

The international agreement, which we are obliged to formulate, is expected by the world to be fully complied by all Parties to have high level of feasibility, and to have a major effect on environmental benefits. In order to respond to these diverse expectations, we must not allow our discussions to focus only on the modalities of the objectives. We must consider a good design of policies and measures, and a way to review the degree to which the commitment is being fulfilled. Only through a process of coordinating the entire framework of the commitment can we possibly meet diverse expectations. Japan wishes to make proposals addressing these points to facilitate the discussion in the forthcoming AGBM meetings.

Mr. Chairman,

As early as in 1990, Japan formulated the Action Program to Arrest Global Warming, and initiated wide-ranging governmental measures. Still, it is true that the levels of carbon dioxide emissions in Japan in FY1994 significantly exceeded the levels of 1990.

Hence, Japan is strengthening its efforts to fulfill the commitment under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. At the meeting of the Council of Ministries for Global Environment Conservation held recently, our Prime Minister directed the relevant ministers to take measures to ensure a greater degree of energy conservation in the industrial, transport, and residential and commercial sectors. In response, earnest consideration is underway on additional measures including those which can significantly expand energy conservation. Furthermore, a technology assessment for environmental conservation is being conducted. In addition, there is rising momentum driving the development of new technologies in the industrial sector, and an increasing appearance of voluntary initiatives to curb emissions of carbon dioxide. Indeed, we are seeing steady growth in the so-called "Eco-industry." What is more, we have developed Household Eco-account Books unprecedented in the world, which aims to change household consumption patterns and is now being distributed around Japan. While car manufactures are making serious effort to achieve the world's strictest fuel efficiency standards, a nationwide movement has started to reduce unnecessary engine idling of motor vehicles. We have also initiated a process to reform governmental activities with a view toward making them more environmentally friendly, including purchase of low emission vehicles.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has cooperated in a constructive manner with the in-depth review conducted by the Secretariat last year. The results of that review are to be submitted to this session. According to the results, Japan has been commended as one of the countries with the highest energy efficiency in the world. However, it was sternly pointed out that, taken as a whole, the extremely diverse range of measures which are being undertaken in Japan are not necessarily proceeding in an effective manner. The Vice-Minister for International Trade and Industry, who is responsible for energy policy, is present here today and this witnesses that the Government of Japan will work in a well coordinated manner and I can assure that we take a more cost-effective approach to stabilize emission levels of greenhouse gases.

I believe that the measures taken by each country at home and those based on international commitments are mutually supportive in improving the quality of the environment. As such, while considering to strengthen international commitments for the 21st century, it is vital that we should also seek to strengthen the domestic measures and I would herein propose that the ministers gathered here take a vow to fulfill this.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan, as an industrialized country, must play a leading role based on the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities. We have also been improving and enhancing the assistance to developing countries, in order to promote measures all over the world to counter global warming. In keeping with our commitment to expand Official Development Assistance for the environment announced at the Earth Summit, by last year, Japan has already contributed more than US\$9 billion over a four-year period, meeting the commitment one year ahead of the initial five-year schedule. Additional assistance is continuing. Japan is taking a wide-ranging initiative including international training courses, workshops for experts on national communication and response measures, joint international research projects, and assistance for international cooperation between local governments. Indeed, there is growing interest among Japanese industrial sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local governments in Activities Implemented Jointly, and full preparations have been made to go ahead with project implementation.

Furthermore, as Japan stated at the First Session of the Conference of the Parties, we are determined to spare no efforts to facilitate the success of the Conference of the Parties with a view to achieving the ultimate goals of the Convention. In particular, Japan intends to do its utmost in order that we will be able to reach an international agreement smoothly at the next Conference, which will act upon the successes of this session. In this context, the Government of Japan has decided to offer its hosting the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties in the City of Kyoto. Not only the people of Kyoto, but also the citizens of Kobe who are recovering from the earthquake disaster with the help from the international community, and the citizens of whole Kansai region, and indeed, all the people of Japan are looking forward to welcoming that session. Japan is fully committed to making every effort necessary to facilitate the success of that session. The Government of Japan hopes all Parties present here will support its offering.

Mr. Chairman,

As citizens of global community, every one of us shares the one and only earth, and has a responsibility to do what we can to prevent global warming though the content and degree of responsibility are different among us. No country and no individual has the right to pursue individual benefit to the degree that it damages our planet. It is my earnest hope that this

session launches great efforts toward ensuring global benefits and pushing forward the challenge of all Parties, while taking into account the voices of environmental NGOs, industrial NGOs, labor's NGOs, local governments, and scientists.

Thank you very much.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Japan NAME OF SPEAKER: Mr. Susio Iwatake
 DAY: 17/07/96 TIME: 11:47 A.M. NOTE-TAKER: Lo STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

AGBM-RELATED ISSUES

The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: <i>to create a comprehensive framework to limit and reduce levels of greenhouse gas emissions in dev. Country Parties beyond 2000.</i>
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <i>6 Points for legal instrument:</i> <i>a) precautionary measures</i> <i>b) environmental effectiveness</i> <i>c) equitable + efficient dist. of policy efforts</i> <i>d) positive direction + efforts</i> <i>e) creation of foundation for world-wide mean</i> <i>f) active technological us.</i>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <i>- does promote a target by applying rates of CO₂ emissions per unit of activities such as GDP.</i> <i>- welcomes other proposals that are more feasible + more effective</i>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <i>expects utmost inter'l commitment to share global crisis.</i> <i>- levels of CO₂ emissions significantly exceeded 1990 levels.</i> <i>- ensuring a greater degree of energy conservation in industrial, transport, and residential and commercial sectors</i> <i>- through commitment of tech., a CO₂ fixation is anticipated.</i>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <i>improving + enhancing assistance to developing countries.</i> <i>- met 5-year commitment of \$9 billion a year in advance.</i> <i>- wide-range initiative of inter'l training, workshops for experts on nat'l communication, joint inter'l research projects, assistance to cooperation between local gov'ts.</i>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>- indicates a significant body of evidence suggesting discernible human influence on climate change.</i> <i>- necessary to adopt a greater range of measures immediately.</i>

SBI-RELATED ISSUES

Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments:
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments:	

OTHER COMMENTS: