

STATEMENT NO. 6: JAPAN

Mr President, first of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for your tireless and dedicated work as the President of the COP 6, to finally reach an agreement on a number of important issues under the Convention and the critical issues which are vital for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol.

Since the historic conference in Kyoto in 1997, Japan has been exerting its all-out efforts in close cooperation with other partners for the successful outcome of our negotiations. In the course of our negotiations, we have always tried to ensure the viable and sustainable systems and mechanisms to achieve the goals under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

The Government of Japan is pleased to join in the consensus to adopt the decisions we finally made today. Today's agreement is a vital step forward towards realizing the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol, we need to have the widest possible participation of countries. We should try to build up a system to encourage all our friends to join us in our common efforts to address the global warming.

Our work still continues, and many more days of hard work are required to ensure that detailed rules and procedures are adequately laid down. I am very happy to see that consensus was reached through the maximum flexibility and patience of all the participating countries. Global warming requires us to mobilize our wisdom and courage, as we sail across uncharted seas into the future.

On behalf of Japan, I would like to make a statement regarding financial support for developing countries.

Japan welcomes the political declaration delivered by other members of Annex II countries. We associate ourselves with many elements included in the declaration, such as those regarding the streamlining of the GEF procedures, and the establishment of an Adaptation Fund, a Special Climate Change Fund and a Least Developed Countries Fund, which should contribute substantively to supporting the efforts of developing countries in tackling climate change.

Japan is committed to supporting the efforts of developing countries in addressing climate change because this is a global problem requiring a global response. We have transformed this commitment into concrete action through the Kyoto Initiative announced in 1997. Under the Kyoto Initiative, Japan has committed itself to providing on average about 2.4 billion US\$ annually in highly concessional loans for projects related to climate change in developing countries. Japan has also provided financial and technical assistance amounting to 7,400 million US\$ for climate change projects since 1998. Japan considers that such on-going activities to assist developing countries should be legitimately recognized as contributing to strengthening developing countries' actions against climate change. Let me

conclude by expressing our commitment to intensify ongoing efforts to assist developing countries in the area of climate change. Thank you.