

**Statement delivered by**  
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**on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)**  
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Chairperson,  
FAO Director General,  
your Excellencies,  
distinguished delegates,  
ladies and gentlemen,

it is my great honour to deliver a few words on behalf of the Government of Japan at this 43rd Session of the FAO Conference. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu and the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this Session.

First I would like to congratulate the Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu on the successful re-election. I believe in the Dr Qu Dongyu's continued leadership as Director-General for eradicating hunger and ensuring transparency in FAO governance. When it comes to water as the theme in this Agenda Item while on one hand it is a resource that brings blessings to society, on the other hand it can also be a source of natural disasters that threaten people's lives and livelihoods.

In Japan the number of torrential rains has increased by about 1.4 times compared to 30 years ago, furthermore the entire Asia and the Pacific now experience approximately three times as many floods as it did 30 years ago. Therefore when considering water resource management water related disasters such as floods must be centrally focused upon together with water scarcity.

In April last year the 4th Asia Pacific Water Summit was held in my country. On this occasion our Prime Minister Mr Fumio Kishida launched the Kumamoto initiative for water announcing that Japan will support the Asia Pacific region with JPY 500 billion over the next five years. This initiative aims to promote efforts in both climate change adaptation and mitigation, through the development of high quality infrastructure utilizing Japan's advanced technologies.

Specifically as climate change, adaptation measures there are efforts to reduce flood damage in rural areas through the development of agricultural irrigation and drainage facilities and the utilization of paddy fields for rain water retention. Climate change and mitigation measures on the other hand include the reduction of green house gases emissions through small hydropoly generation systems using irrigation and drainage facilities and agricultural water management systems which enable advanced agricultural production with ICT technology.

Japan has decided to develop and provide the Asia Pacific region with hybrid technologies for both climate change, adaptation and mitigation. Through these efforts we will contribute to sustainable water resource management.

Chairperson, consumers and producers around the world are currently experiencing a hard time due to the price spike of food, energy and agricultural inputs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which since last year has been exacerbated by Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

It not only constitutes a flagrant violation of international law but also inflicted vast negative impacts on global food security thus Japan condemns Russia's action in the strongest terms. Furthermore with the growing importance of addressing climate change and bio diversity, global agricultural policies are at a historic turning point.

Against this backdrop Japan hosted the G7 agricultural Ministers meeting in Miyazaki in April this year where we discussed and concluded on how to make agriculture and food systems resilient and sustainable. The outcomes fed directly in the Hiroshima action statement for resilient global food security issued by the G7 and the invited countries of the G7 Hiroshima summit in May this year. Among them I have three things to share with you today.

First, sustainability in agriculture should be enhanced in a manner which enhances productivity. Secondly, food systems should be strengthened by each country by the maximized utilization of their existing domestic agricultural resources. Last but not least a wide range of innovations should be put in action to achieve sustainable agriculture innovate that benefits all people.

Actions are already underway, in Japan we have been implementing the strategy for sustainable food systems or strategy MIDORI, to build the sustainable agriculture and food systems. As part of its implementation for example against the soared prices of fertilizer and other inputs many regions in Japan including my home prefecture of Chiba are making efforts convert life stock manure into compost and distribute it as dried pellets to a wide range of areas. This can be deemed as a good example of innovation that has been developed and implemented using what is available on the ground. On the other hand we reiterate there is no one size fits all solution to building sustainable agriculture and food systems. It goes without saying that it is important for each country to search for their own best solution.

Chairperson, and distinguished participants, Japan will continue to cooperate and collaborate with FAO and other relevant international organizations and all Member States to contribute to solving global challenges.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.