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Statement by the Permanent Mission of Japan
At the General Discussion of the Second Committee of the General Assembly
On Item 23, Eradication of Poverty

17 October 2013

Mr. Chair,

Firstly, I would like to thank the Secretary-General and the secretariat for the preparation of their three reports (A/68/183, 228 and 271) under this agenda item.

(Poverty Eradication)

Without a doubt, the eradication of poverty is recognized as one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today. The spirit of this challenge was embodied in MDG 1, which was to halve extreme poverty around the globe by 2015. The progress made so far, which includes the actual realization of MDG 1 five years ahead of the target date, has been significant. However, as the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/183) points out, as of 2010 there were still some 1.2 billion people living on less than $1.25 a day, and the progress of eradicating poverty has been uneven, as most of those still living under such conditions are in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. To address this unevenness, Japan has been actively supporting these regions. One example is the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held last June, where Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe announced Japan’s commitment to support growth in Africa through public and private means amounting 3.2 trillion JPY (about 32 billion USD) over the next 5 years.

Mr. Chair,

Japan believes that the eradication of poverty is of the utmost priority and should remain a central objective of the post-2015 development agenda. We recall that the outcome document of the Special Event on the MDGs held three weeks ago underlined the central imperative of eradicating poverty. We also believe that the post-2015 development agenda should be people-centered, by integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental sustainability. The eradication of poverty will require us to address a variety of issues, including lack of decent employment, health care, or education, as well as social exclusion, climate change and natural disasters. Various actors
in development must work together to address these issues and set people free from fear and want; that is to achieve human security. Japan will continue to place a high priority on poverty eradication and to support human and social development in developing countries.

(Women in development)
Mr. Chair,

It is obvious that inclusive, equitable and sustainable development cannot be achieved without gender equality and women’s empowerment. At the General Debate of the General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe stated that bringing about ‘a society where women shine’ is now a guiding thread of Japanese diplomacy. He declared the implementation of ODA in excess of $3 billion USD over the next 3 years for promotion of women’s participation in society, women’s empowerment, health and medical care for women, and women’s participation and protection in the areas of peace and security.

(Human resources development)
Mr. Chair,

Human resources development in each country is critical if we are to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development. The importance of both education and decent employment especially among women and youth cannot be overemphasized. As the SG report (A/68/228) points out, scientific and technological innovation will play a crucial role in human resources development. Japan possesses a broad range of knowledge and technology, both cutting-edge and down to earth, and is committed to further developing and sharing its knowledge and technologies with partners in the international community, as well as fostering a more conducive environment for sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.