

Statement by Mr. Takanori MAEDA
Japanese Consulate in New York

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Transport

Mr. Chairman,

The transport sector is an important basis for economic growth, but also one of the major sources of CO₂ emissions. CO₂ emissions from this sector in Japan account for almost one-fourth of its total emissions. Japan has been promoting various measures against climate change such as the improvement of fuel efficiency and the promotion of public transportation.

Japan is tackling the improvement of fuel efficiency of automobiles by implementing fuel efficiency standards, and introduced standards based on the “Top Runner approach” in 1999. Japan has achieved a 50% improvement in fuel efficiency over the last 20 years. Japan has also been promoting public transportation which generates fewer emissions than other means of transportation, by developing railway networks in urban areas as well as a bullet train network among cities across the country. Improvement of the efficiency of distribution is also facilitated in Japan under the Green Logistics Partnership Conference. As a result of those various measures, CO₂ emissions from Japan’s transport sector are decreasing after peaking out in 2001.

Japan takes the initiative to enhance global efforts to combat climate change and air pollution in the transport sector through the Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transport (MEET). Through the 1st meeting of MEET held in January 2009 in Tokyo and its Follow-up Meeting in June 2009 in Hakodate, transport ministers, officials and experts

shared their experiences and expertise to accelerate concrete actions by individual countries as well as to further facilitate international cooperation, with a view to realizing low-carbon and low-pollution transport systems. In addition, Japan, in collaboration with UNCRD, has established the Asian Regional EST Forum and facilitated cooperation among Asian countries through policy dialogue towards the realization of environmentally sustainable transport in Asia. Japan will continue to take the lead in sharing experiences and best practices across countries, and assisting efforts by developing countries, as well as to contribute to global efforts through Japan's environmentally friendly transport technologies for railways, automobiles and so forth.

As for Paragraph 56 of the Report of the Secretary-General, it would be difficult and not practical to appropriately attribute emissions from international aviation and maritime transport to particular economies, because international transport involves many parties across the world, such as countries of operators, passengers, cargo owners, ship owners, and ship registries. Considering such global nature and complexity of this issue, Japan believes that the issue should be tackled by all the parties together. Furthermore, it is Japan's view that the expertise and scientific knowledge of ICAO and IMO are essential to address emissions from international aviation and maritime transport. Therefore, Japan believes that ICAO's and IMO's efforts to combat climate change in these sectors should be embraced and supported.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.