

Remarks by the representative of the delegation of Japan
Mr. Seiji OKADA, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in Kenya;
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to UN-HABITAT
The 22nd Governing Council of UN-HABITAT

Thank you Mr. (Madam) Chairperson,
Executive Director Dr. Anna Tibaijuka,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in the 22nd Governing Council of UN-Habitat and speak on behalf of the Japanese delegation in the High-level segment.

Last year, reaching the midpoint towards the target year of 2015 to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Japan led international efforts for development including the MDGs through TICAD IV (the Forth Tokyo International Conference on African Development), G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, and other UN meetings. Japan will continue to contribute actively to the achievement of the MDGs and efforts to address global issues such as poverty reduction, eco-friendly and sustainable urbanization, and ensuring safe water and sanitation. In so doing, we will implement our assistance in an effective manner, based on the concept of human security that aims at protecting and empowering individuals and communities.

Addressing various challenges related to human settlement such as the problem of urban slums is important in ensuring the safety of individuals and their sense of security. UN-Habitat has addressed this issue by adopting a “community-based comprehensive approach” which tries to ensure full participation of people facing the problem, emphasize their livelihood and

I am pleased to say that Japan has enjoyed close partnership with the UN-Habitat Regional office for Asia and the Pacific located in Fukuoka city, Japan. Japan has worked together with the regional office to reduce poverty and improve living conditions in the Asian region, through implementation of various projects, notably community reconstruction in Sri Lanka, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and poverty reduction in Cambodia. Japan appreciates the activities carried out by the Regional office in Fukuoka in the field and its contribution to joint projects with other UN agencies by utilizing its experiences and expertise.

In closing, on behalf of the government of Japan, I would like to reiterate that, under the leadership of the Executive Director, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, UN-Habitat needs to continue to make relentless efforts for reform in order to to play a significant role towards the achievement of the MDGs.

Thank you for your kind attention.
