

**Japan Statement**  
**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
**21 – 23 May 2013**

Mr. / Ms. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to extend my gratitude for the assistance from international community in regard to the Great East Japan Earthquake. People in Japan were encouraged by warm support from the world.

Firstly, I would like to talk about the efforts in regard to improvement of the legal system for disaster risk reduction in Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. The biggest challenge in disaster management for the Government of Japan is enhancing preparedness for large-scale disasters which might occur in the future, based on the lessons learned and issues that arose from the disaster. Currently, based on the lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and Basic Disaster Management Plan have been revised; both form the foundation of disaster management in Japan. In the act and plan, regulations has been enhanced to improve providing national government assistance to local governments, and to establish the system which enables smooth wide-area evacuation. Inheritance of lessons from past disasters and disaster management education has been promoted. A system to take into account the perspective of women and local citizens had been developed in the Local Disaster Management Plans. Creation of agreements between governments and the public sector is encouraged in Local Disaster Management Plans. A legislative bill on reconstruction from large-scale disasters has been formulated institutionalize a reconstruction framework in advance of the reoccurrence of a disaster. Thus, the legal system on disaster management has been considerably improved from a broad perspective.

Secondly, I would like to mention a strategy called “national resilience”. This

improves resistance and resilience with regard to large-scale disasters through comprehensive countermeasures with not only structural measures, but also non-structural measures such as national land policies and industrial policies. Toward the realization of “national resilience”, the Government of Japan will specify the disaster risks, evaluate the vulnerability, and prioritize the required measures and promote them in partnership with local governments and the private sector.

Finally, the Government of Japan would like to underline these two points, based on our experience and measures taken before. First, I would like to emphasize “mainstreaming disaster risk reduction” to realize sustainable development. The most important thing is to establish resilient local communities by promotion of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, which means incorporating the perspective of disaster risk reduction in every field of policy making as much as possible, not only in the development field. Second, I would like to underscore the importance of learning from past experience and lessons in disaster management. In this regard, I believe it is the mission of Japan to disseminate the knowledge and lessons obtained through past disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake. Also, the Government of Japan has been promoting international human resource development through organizations such as Japan International Cooperation Agency and Asian Disaster Reduction Center.

From these perspectives, the Government of Japan will make a contribution so that disaster risk reduction will be prioritized in the international development goals beyond 2015.

Last December, in the United Nations General Assembly, Japan was designated to be the host country of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. We have already launched the preparation for the conference. In partnership with all the United Nations member states and stakeholders, the Government of Japan will make a proactive contribution for the success of the

Conference as this is a significant opportunity to formulate the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, we will promote mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and sharing knowledge with international community.

Thank you for your attention.