



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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(As delivered)

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kazuyoshi Umemoto
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
on Item 2: Strategic Plan**

**At the 2013 Second Regular Session of the Executive Board
of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)**

16 September 2013

Mr. President,

I would like to first welcome Her Excellency, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, on her assumption to Executive Director of UN-Women. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Ms. Lakshmi Puri for having ably undertaken the role of Acting Head for several months.

Mr. President,

Your Excellency, Mr. Normans Penke, the President of the Board and Ambassador of Latvia to Japan, I am pleased to welcome you back, and I wish to commend you for your consistent leadership. I do not think working in Tokyo as an Ambassador is terribly easy! But I reassure you that Japan, as a Vice-President of the Board, will continue to actively support Your Excellency and contribute to the work of the Board.

As you aware, under the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan has been strengthening its efforts to address Women's issues. In this context, I would like to emphasize that Japan is determined to further deepen its cooperation and collaboration with UN-Women, and we very much hope that Ms. Ngcuka can make her first visit to Japan in the near future.

Mr. President,

<The New Strategic Plan 2014-2017>

In relation to the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, Japan welcomes the vision of the new Executive Director which articulates the importance of education as well as economic empowerment and poverty eradication. This summer, Japan hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). Based on the belief that Women's Economic Empowerment should be one of the guiding principles in all aspects of development, one of the conference's thematic sessions was held under the title "Driving Development in Africa through Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment". At that session, our Foreign Minister stressed the importance of developing human resources for business and industry through vocational training and higher education, and ensuring equal opportunities for education.

Japan has been providing active supports in these areas and will continue to do so. Japan expects UN-Women and the other UN organizations make further efforts toward enhancing their effectiveness in delivering various contributions in these areas, while maximizing respective core competence and ensuring synergy of work together, "delivering as ONE UN".

Madame Executive Director,

We would very much appreciate if you could provide further explanation of how your new vision will be incorporated into the actual work of UN-Women.

With next year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in mind, Japan welcomes the increased focus given to humanitarian assistance and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). We look forward to UN Women's briefing on its humanitarian action strategy in the near future, as we requested in the annual session.

<The Integrated Budget 2014-2015>

On the Integrated Budget, 2014-2015, Japan is pleased to note that this next biannual integrated budget focuses on consolidation of the new Regional Architecture structure by strengthening field offices.

Regarding resource mobilization, we recall what the then Acting Head, Ms. Puri, expressed at the annual session, which is while UN-Women focused on telling the world 'who it is' during its first two or three years, from now on, UN-Women needs to attract further supports, financial and otherwise, from the world by showing results on the ground. We cannot agree more.

With the consolidation of the new Regional Architecture, it is the strong hope of Japan that UN-Women will be able to implement its full mandate, and give full-scale, positive impacts in the field around the world.

As was encouraged by the Advisory Committee in its report, UN-Women should make further efforts in resource mobilization. Japan, for our part, shall do our best not only to increase our financial contributions, but also to collaborate with UN-Women in various ways such as hosting a special event for the expansion of its donor base, including private sector donors.

Finally, Mr. President,

Japan reassures you of its full political support to UN-Women and will continue to actively contribute to the activities of UN-Women through budgetary assistance as well as by providing personnel to the organization.

I thank you, Mr. President.