

*Achieving the*

# SDGs

*Analysis & Recommendations  
for Policy Priorities and  
Implementation Mechanism  
in Japan*

A Report by Japanese Civil Society  
for UN High Level Political Forum 2017

June 2017

Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs (SDGs Japan)



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



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## About this Report

Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs (hereinafter "SDGs Japan") was launched after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter "SDGs"). With its broad civil society network, SDGs Japan pursues the achievement of SDGs in Japan and aims, by the SDGs deadline of 2030, to create a sustainable society where no one is left behind. As the first concrete step, SDGs Japan has actively involved itself in giving input / recommendations in the development of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principle prepared by the Government of Japan (hereinafter "GoJ").

SDGs Japan commends GoJ for participating in the Voluntary National Review at the 2017 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (hereinafter "HLPF"). SDG Japan prepared this report to provide a concise and comprehensive review of the implementation process of the SDGs in Japan.

This report is created with the section on Japan's SDGs policies and implementation mechanisms written by the Program Coordination Group of SDGs Japan. Specific issue sections were written by the "Task Unit" of SDGs Japan in charge of respective issue areas. Due to the short time available from the development of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles to the HLPF, SDGs Japan's attempt to create a comprehensive report may be falling short of its aspiration. For example, methodology and review framework used in the general and issue area sections of the report differs across issue areas and may not be based on definitive data. SDGs Japan will continue its efforts to improve the review framework.

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# *Japan's Policies and Implementation Mechanism to Achieve the SDGs :*

## *Overall Review/Current Status and Challenges*

### **Current Status 1 Development Process of SDG Implementation Guiding Principles**

SDGs Japan applauds the guarantee of a multi-stakeholder process in the development process of GoJ's SDG Implementation Guiding Principles. However, the process still lacks the inclusion of a wide range of society and regions



#### **Recommendation 1 Need a more Inclusive Participation: Participation of People from a Wide Range of Society and Regions**

As recognition of SDGs continues to increase, there will be a need to move forward with participation of a wide range of social sectors

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### **Current Status 2 Lack of Concrete Vision for 2030**

A clear description of what kind of world we want in 2030 is missing, making a gap analysis between the current status and the world envisioned in 2030 difficult. As a result, a comprehensive review of the current policies and policy measures to fill those gaps cannot be developed. Furthermore, a structure that secures the principles of “no one left behind” and “policy coherence of environment, society and economy” is not expressed in the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles



#### **Recommendation 2 Develop a “SDGs 2030 Japan Vision”**

Develop a “2030 Vision” with the participation of various stakeholders including civil society. Take measures to ensure cohesiveness of important national strategies with SDGs. Mainstream and substantialize the SDGs by passing policies/measures and securing a budget. At the same time, develop measures to secure integrity and inclusiveness of SDGs.

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### **Current Status 3 The Command Center is not run adequately**

Civil Society welcomes the establishment of SDGs Promotion Headquarters to act as the command center for the Government. However, a clear political will is lacking to mobilize policy decisions and secure a budget.



#### **Recommendation 3 Enhance Function of SDGs Promotion HQ and Secure Budget for SDGs**

In accordance with SDGs Goal 16, increase transparency and effectiveness of government institutions through a participatory decision making process. There is a need for a clear political will and leadership from the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, framework for effective inter-ministerial cooperation, framework for national and local government cooperation, and securing substantive budget for SDGs.

This page is a summary of the Overall Evaluation in Attachment 1

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## *Review of Each Issue Area*

In the following pages, you will find a review of different issue areas by CSOs within SDGs Japan, which provided their assessment in the three categories below.

- (1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs
- (2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs
- (3) Recommendations

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# 1

## Poverty and Inequality in Japan

Ren Onishi  
Representative, Moyai



### *1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Relative poverty rate in Japan is 16.1% (Source: 2012 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare), ranked 26th in 32 OECD countries as of 2012 (the 6th worst poverty rate).
- \* Japan's national poverty line is JPY 1.22 mil in 2012 and JPY 1.49 mil in 1997 (MHLW), showing 270,000 yen drop in 15 years. This means the median of equivalent disposable income diminished from JPY 2.98 mil to JPY 2.44 mil in 15 years; a clear indication of decrease in Japan's income level nation-wide.
- \* The Gini coefficient of Japanese households with two or more persons increased from 0.271 in 1979 to 0.314 in 2014 (Source: National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure; Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications), suggesting aggravation in economic inequality.
- \* According to the 2010 MHLW National Minimum Research Group paper, the coverage rate of Japan's public assistance (percentage of the recipient households among all the households qualified for public assistance) is extremely low, between 15.3% (income-based) and 32.1% (assets inclusive). Evidently, the country is failing to provide necessary assistance to the vulnerable people.
- \* At present, Japan has no policy framework or policy goals with primary focus on solving poverty and inequality, aside from the framework on child poverty.

### *2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related "Priority Areas and Policies" of the Guiding Principles: (People) Empowerment of All People*

- \* The SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles  
Except for the acknowledgement of Japan's low achieving score for SDG 1 (Poverty) in II-(2) Assessment of Present Situation, the Guiding Principles make no reference to poverty nor economic inequality (or disparity). It is worth noting nevertheless, that the Guiding Principles quotes the 2030 Agenda original text in III-(3) Vision, in stating, "We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries..." ...With the above in mind, Japan has established the following vision: "Become a leader toward a future where economic, social and environmental improvements are attained in an integrated, sustainable and resilient manner while leaving no one behind."
- \* Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs  
In the Specific Measures, the only segment related to poverty and inequality is "child poverty countermeasures" in section 1. Empowerment of All People. ("Women's empowerment" segment also makes reference to poverty, but not as its main focus.)  
The SDG Targets 1.2, 1.3 and 1.b directly correspond with poverty in Japan, but the Specific Measures make no note of any of the Targets.

Likewise, SDG Targets 10.1 and 10.4, which correspond with economic inequality (or disparity), are not mentioned in the Specific Measures. (Inequality appears in the Guiding Principles, but none in the Specific Measures.)

The omissions signify the current absence of policies with primary focus on resolving poverty and reducing inequality. (Some aspects of the “Japan’s Plan for Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens” may overlap with but do not necessarily aim at reducing poverty and inequality.)

### 3) Recommendations

#### \* Overview

At present, Japan has no policy framework or policy goals related to poverty and inequality, aside from Child Poverty Countermeasures Law. The absence of policy (framework) for SDG Targets 1.2, 1.3, 1.b, 10.1, and 10.4, suggests that Japan needs to establish policy framework and policy goals to achieve these SDG Targets.

While some policies may be included in the context of the “Plan for Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens,” achieving the SDGs requires political and policy initiatives. Japan also needs to give achievement of the SDGs numerical targets the highest priority. (Proposals to be specified.)

Moreover, multi-stakeholders’ meaningful commitment must be guaranteed throughout the processes.

#### \* Proposals for the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles

The Principles need to state clearly the commitment to “end poverty,” “reduce inequality,” and likewise.

#### \* Proposals for the Specific Measures

- » Add the segment for “Poverty and Inequality” in section 1. Empowerment of All People.
- » Add the numerical target to halve the poverty rate (Target 1.2).
- » Adopt the public assistance coverage rate (MHLW estimate 20-30%) increase as a Target, and set a numerical goal.
- » Set a numerical goal for income growth of the bottom 40% of the population. (As the lower income group in Japan represents a greater proportion of the elderly people, consider setting an independent target for employed households using earned income, etc.)
- » Set a Target ensuring equality in education attainment rate, etc., between the lower income and the average income groups, through grants / scholarships and public services for the lower income citizens. (Note: Whereas the university and other higher education enrolment rate for the average income households is roughly 70%, the index for the public assistance recipient households remains around 30%.)
- » Add a statement stipulating Japan’s commitment to promptly create policy and legal frameworks to initiate resolutions to poverty and inequality in Japan.



A former homeless person who started to live in a room of an apartment by the service of Moyai (a Japanese NPO to support poor and needy persons)  
©Moyai



A consultation with a needy person in Moyai  
©Moyai

# 2

## International Cooperation / Development Issues

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### 1) *Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Discrepancy and inequality in social and economic spheres is becoming wider both within and among countries, and poverty is increasing over the world.
- \* The number of Refugees and Internal Displaced Persons (IDP) is increasing due to complex and prolonged conflicts.
- \* Authoritarianism is growing in a number of governments, leading to the narrowing of civil society space.
- \* Xenophobia and chauvinism is rampant in many countries. This circumstance weakens tolerance towards diversity and accelerates violent extremism.

### 2) *Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related “Priority Areas and Policies” of the Guiding Principles: (Partnership) Strengthening the Means and Frameworks of the Implementation of SDGs*

- \* A number of current policies\* of the Japanese Government is not compatible with the vision and principle stated in SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles.  
\*Eg. Replacing The Three Principles on Arms Exports and their Related Policy Guideline with The Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, the government’s passive stance towards the recognition of refugee status, etc.
- \* The current international cooperation and ODA policies of GoJ are not consistent with the basic pillars of SDGs which includes poverty eradication, equity and “Leave No One Behind.” No clear path and means to achieve SDGs are shown on SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles.
- \* There is no stipulated timeline to achieve international targets to allocate more than 0.7% of GNI to ODA towards developing countries and 0.15% to 0.2% of GNI to ODA towards Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (SDG Target 17.2)
- \* The introduction of innovative financing mechanisms, in particular “International Solidarity Levy” is not considered despite the importance of increasing public funds for ODA. (SDG Target 17.3)
- \* Although it is necessary to prevent illegal outflow of funds from developing countries, the strengthening of the current measures against off-shore tax havens is not proposed. (SDG Target 10.4, 16.4, 17.1)



### 3) Recommendations

- \* Collect and utilize disaggregated data in order to grasp the current situation of “people left behind” to GoJ to protect human rights, and to fulfill its accountability to all the people.
- \* Devise and implement measures for ensuring “Leave No One Behind”,
- \* Increase ODA towards local CSOs as well as International CSOs and the number of projects in partnership with CSOs in order to reach “people left behind” in various areas (Increase the ratio of ODA towards CSOs from the current level of 2%)
- \* Stop and prevent persecution or oppression against “people left behind”, take action to promote social inclusion, and establish mechanisms to guarantee democracy and civil liberties in both Global South and North, acknowledging the importance of freedom and liberty of civil society in achieving “Leave No One Behind”.
- \* Maximize the lessons-learned from the support for “Universal Health Coverage (UHC)” and introduce a social security system that promotes redistribution of wealth in a way to directly tackle poverty. Enhance capacities of government bodies in data collection, policy making and implementation in order to ensure transparency and participation in measures towards the poor such as “Conditional Cash Transfers” and relief measures for the unemployed.
- \* Propose detailed plans or policies to scales up ODA, introduce “International Solidarity Levy” and tackle off-shore tax havens.



Civil G7 Dialogue for G7 Ise-Shima Summit (Kyoto, 2016)  
©Development Unit, SDGs Japan



"SDGs and Africa's Development", a side event of  
TICAD VI (Nairobi, 2016)  
©Development Unit, SDGs Japan

# 3

## Health

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### *1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Unless domestic issues of aging population and healthy life expectancy improve, it will be difficult to manage and sustain social security systems, such as the national health insurance program.
- \* Health systems in developing countries are too fragile to provide appropriate services. This issue is an obstacle to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases and achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- \* Improvements in lifestyles and prevention of lifestyle-related diseases are still insufficient. Furthermore, more and more people are dying of non-communicable disease (NCD) in all developing countries. NCD accounts for 70% of deaths around the world (low-income countries: 37%, high-income countries: 88%).

### *2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related “Priority Areas and Policies” of the Guiding Principles: (People) 1. Empowerment of All People 2. Achievement of Good Health and Longevity*

- \* Japanese policies domestically and abroad focus on “medicine.” They are weak in terms of “health,” including disease prevention and health education.
- \* Japan needs to take measures that are based on SDG 3. Current measures lack in “promoting mental health and well-being of the young generation”, “providing sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs” and the like.
- \* In Japan, immigrants suffer from poor access to medical and health services as they cannot obtain health insurance. This practice is not in accord with the principle of “leave no one behind.”
- \* Implementation of support based on Basic Design for Peace and Health and enhanced implementation of G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health are major framework measures aimed at the world as a whole, and consist of diverse items. GoJ should describe them in policies and measures more clearly.
- \* Asia Human Well-being Initiative focuses on business development by Japanese nursing care business operators in Asian countries. The policy does not include integrated community care system or prevention measures to delay nursing care, thus it lacks the perspective of “leave no one behind.”

### 3) Recommendations

- \* Methods of coping with declining birthrates, as well as the aging population, and positioning the point of "Health" must be included in the measures targeting Japan. Especially essential points for health policies are sexual reproductive health and rights, intergenerational equality, and focusing on infant, children, youth, women, expectant and nursing mothers, and the working generation.
- \* In order to achieve UHC, the government should enhance health systems from community to regional and national levels, and improve health services including early prevention.
- \* In order to achieve UHC, GoJ should add concrete measures for immigrants to Japan.
- \* GoJ should describe how to cope with NCD based on improvement of lifestyles and preventive measures.



School health activities in Timor-Leste: Hand washing promotion for preventing infections.  
© SHARE



Free health consultation for foreigners in Japan.:  
Volunteer nurses are measuring blood-pressure  
© SHARE

# 4

## Education

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### 1) *Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Domestic: The right of education for children with foreign nationalities in Japan is not guaranteed. Opportunities for home language education as well as education in their home language, and support for learning basic Japanese language should be guaranteed. Also, the legal status equivalent to formal schools for foreign students in Japan including Korean high schools should be secured. Furthermore, these schools should be eligible for the free tuition system for Japanese high schools.
- \* International: The percentage of Japanese ODA allocated for primary and secondary education is only 1.9%, while other DAC nations allocate 5.5% of their aids. Also, the amount of contribution of Goj to Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a multilateral aid agencies for basic education, ranks 17th out of 22 nations with only 0.53% share in all donors' contributions to GPE.

### 2) *Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related “Priority Areas and Policies” of the Guiding Principles: (People) Empowerment of All People (Partnership) Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs*

- \* Domestic: The inclusion of learning about SDGs in the new school curricula, which will be implemented from 2020, is commendable. On the other hand, the issue with the right of education for children with foreign nationalities is not mentioned. Also, the indicator used in the implementation guideline does not reflect the situation of ESD and lacks in the compatibility with the global indicators of SDG Target 4.7, which consist of the extent of mainstreaming ESD in education policy, curricula, teachers training, and evaluation of learning achievement.
- \* International: The emphasis of importance of mainstreaming SDGs, propulsion of education cooperation and girls' education in the bilateral aids is commendable. Yet, it is problematic that the amount of the contribution to GPE has not increased.

### 3) *Recommendations*

- \* The points mentioned in 1) should be specifically stated.



NPOs held several workshops of ESD/GCED for teachers and community leaders. © DEAR



Girls' education program in Pakistan © Plan International

## 1) *Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Gender issues within the legislative system: According to the Civil Law in Japan, there are gender inequality issues that do not abide by international laws and standards, including the provisions that women can legally marry at 16 years old (which is considered child marriage internationally) and that women are not allowed to remarry for 100 days after divorce. As a couple must carry the same surname and at the time of marriage 96% of the women change their surname to that of their husbands, women, especially working women, face the risk of losing their identity. As for the Penal Code, the present definition of rape contains serious deficiencies; such as, the age of consent remains low at 13 years old and visible resistance to the assaults are required to be considered as a crime.
- \* Economic gaps between men and women: According to the survey on wage structures undertaken by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the average wage disparity between men and women are 27%, and this is the 3rd from the bottom among 34 OECD countries.
- \* Low representation in Parliament: The number of women in the House of Representative is only 9.3% -- far less compared to the world average of 23.4%--, which makes Japan rank at 164th out of 193 countries. According to the Global Database of Quotas for Women, already more than 100 countries have introduced some type of quota system. In Japan women have been making efforts to increase female representatives.

## 2) *Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related “Priority Areas and Policies” of the Guiding Principles: (People) Empowerment of All People (Prosperity) Creating Growth Markets, Revitalization of Rural Areas, and Promoting Science Technology and Innovation*

- \* The language of “mainstreaming gender perspectives” and “gender specific data” was mentioned in the Guideline. This is laudable but no budget is allocated for implementation, and no specific action has been detailed.
- \* Although gender equality is expressed as one of key objectives in the Guideline, its Attachment only refers to the 4th Basic Plan for Gender Equality and does not refer to the indicators specified in the SDGs. The Basic Plan includes a clause on the care for those who have special needs with regards to their sexual orientation. This clause should be carried on further.
- \* In the Attachment, the desired total fertility rate (TFR) of the country is designated as 1.8. Instead of setting a target number for the TFR, the government should take actions to remove barriers to having and rearing children, such as making improvements on the lack of childcare facilities, the unstable employment for young people, and support for low income families, especially single parent families.

# Gender

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Yukiko Oda  
Representative,  
Japan Women’s Watch (JAWW)



# 5

## Gender

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Chairperson, JOICFP

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### 3) Recommendations

- \* The persisting gender inequalities in the civil and criminal law have been repeatedly pointed out and swift actions were requested by the CEDAW Recommendation to Japan. As abiding by the international agreements and standards is the Japanese government's policy, the implementation of Recommendation should be incorporated into the SDGs implementation policy.
- \* Actions are needed to narrow income disparity by providing equal opportunities for promotion of women to managerial positions and realizing equal pay for equal work. Special attentions need to be paid to single mothers and women who gave birth. Moreover, the time used for household chores by husband is disproportionately less than that of wives in Japan compared to other developed countries. There is a need to change the unfair share of family responsibilities between men and women in the society and at home through reducing working hours and creating a favorable environment for childcare.
- \* There has been little progress for increasing the number of women in parliament in Japan, so the introduction of a quota system is strongly recommended.



A dialogue forum on gender issues with deputy director generals of Cabinet Office and MoFA before the launch of Japan's National SDGs Principles ©Gender Unit, SDGs Japan

Survey on marriage undertaken by MoHLW:

→<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/tokusyu/konin16/dl/01.pdf>  
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/itiran/roudou/chingin/kouzou/z2016/index.html>  
<https://data.oecd.org/earnwage/gender-wage-gap.htm#indicator-chart>  
<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>  
<http://www.quotaproject.org/atlas.pdf>

# Disabilities

Keiichiro Tamaru  
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Disabled Peoples' International

## 1) *Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* About 15 percent of the world population lives with some form disability, and 80 percent of them are living in developing countries. On the whole 20 percent of people living in poverty are persons with disabilities. One of the reasons why persons with disabilities have a higher poverty rate is that employment rate of persons with disabilities is under 50 percent while the rate of persons without disabilities is more than 70 percent. Even though persons with disabilities get jobs, their wage is very low and their working conditions are worse. Therefore, poverty rate of persons with disabilities is 2 times higher than the persons without disabilities. (Policy Department A Economic and Scientific Policy, European Parliament)
- \* Japanese government has made a plan to establish active society for all Japanese, but the government has never conducted appropriate data collection to focus on the most vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities both domestically and internationally and their vision and policies for the groups are insufficient.
- \* There are no provisions to prevent discrimination against persons with multiple difficulties such as women with disabilities in domestic laws. On the contrary, there are many laws which include restrictions of rights because of their disabilities.
- \* (Supplemental note) The laws and policies which restrict rights are still existing and even increasing. According to a research, in 2016, the number of disqualification clauses related to persons with disabilities are 506. Among them, the number of the clauses related to guardianship for persons with disabilities were 145 in 2002, 193 in 2009, and 211 in 2016.  
<http://www.dpi-japan.org/friend/restrict/shiryo/data/index.html>

## 2) *Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related "Priority Areas and Policies" of the Guiding Principles: (People) Empowerment of All People (Peace) Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies (Partnership) Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs*

- \* In the Attachment, the 3rd Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities is mentioned. However, there is no numerical target to accomplish "equal treatment with others" which is a requirement in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), nor is there data collection which makes objective comparison possible including types of disabilities, age, or gender.
- \* Although measures for inclusion in order to achieve "Leave No One Behind" are considered, they do not start with an analysis of how persons are "left behind" to begin with. A case in point is the fact that among those in the minority groups including persons with disabilities, issues of discrimination or abuse for girls or women are manifold, but it is not properly recognized.



# 6

## Disabilities

Keiichiro Tamaru  
Assistant Secretary-general,  
Japan National Assembly of  
Disabled Peoples' International



### 3) Recommendations

- \* The Implementation Guideline will be amended in 2019, but on the topic of disability, it is when the 4th Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities is developed that implementation of international frameworks including CRPD, SDGs or Inchon Strategy must be considered, and the Implementation Guideline should be revised on the basis of the Basic Plan. In the same manner, the Basic Act of Persons with Disabilities and the Barrier Free Law amendment needs to incorporate measures to achieve SDGs.
- \* When concrete indicators are set as KPI, collecting high reliable data to eliminate multiple discriminations or solve current issues and improve situations of most vulnerable groups is necessary. To implement the SDGs, developing a system of inter-ministry coordination to promote, amending laws to prohibit multiple discriminations including women with disabilities, eliminating disqualified clauses and promoting equality and narrowing gaps are necessary. And, at all of the stages including the making plans, the implementations, or the review planning, participations of representatives of the target groups must be assured.



Independent living training for leaders with disabilities in Africa © DPI Japan



Seminar on disability-related international cooperation carried out by persons with disabilities © DPI Japan

## Regional Revitalization / Regional Issues

Eriko Nitta  
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### 1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs

- \* Lack of sustainability in the community is a challenge faced by all regions of Japan, both rural and urban. Disassociation of community due to urbanization, and declining of the population due to aging are starting to have a great impact, not only in numbers but also in the lives of citizens in both rural and urban areas.



## 2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related “Priority Areas and Policies” of the Guiding Principles: (Prosperity) Creating growth market, revitalization of rural areas, and promoting technological innovation

- \* Evaluation of the Implementation Guiding Principles  
While there is a text stating “As we will face the aging society in the future...” in “2. Analyzing the current situation (2) Evaluation of the current situation”, aging society has already been an issue in Japan. Also, whereas the population of Japan is seen to decline in the future, there is a data that predicts the population density of Tokyo to keep on rising, if the current situation remains unchanged.
- \* Evaluation of the Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs  
We welcome that related ministries and concrete measures were specified, tackling of the regional density of Tokyo and issues specific to regions were raised, and measures to return profits to rural areas and villages around seas, mountains, and farmlands along with revitalization and increasing sustainability were included as specific measures for the guiding principles. However, actual cooperation with local governments is yet to be seen, especially with some measures still requiring discussion as to whether or not they contribute to sustainability of the regions (for example, measures such as economic cooperation negotiation, investment treaties, and strengthening of land resources). An elaborate discussion in the regional levels aligned with the SDGs principles is necessarily.

## 3) Recommendations

- \* The first revision of the implementation guiding principles will take place in 2019, and in order to encourage local governments to incorporate the principles in their measures, the Japanese government needs to show their 2019 vision now. This will enable to affect not only current measures but restructuring the organization and future plans of the local governments. We expect the principles to be located clearly and in a cross-cutting form as a top level policy of the Japanese government, so that the local governments will be encouraged to incorporate them in their measures.



A multi-stakeholder meeting in Okayama City on SDGs and Citizen's Participation Code of the local government  
©Okayama City



A waterwheel that was made by the villagers as a resource of sightseeing to contribute a sustainable community (Ishidatami Area, Uchiko Town, Ehime Prefecture)  
©Regional Issues Unit, SDGs Japan

# Regional Revitalization/ Regional Issues

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# 8

## Disaster Prevention and Disaster Risk Reduction

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### *1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Disasters have been occurring frequently in Japan and around the world, including the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, the Nepal Earthquake in 2015, and the Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016, etc. According to data in 2016, the number of people affected by disasters exceeded more than 400 million, and due to climate change, vulnerability to disasters and resulting economic losses have become major concerns. Strengthening disaster resilience is an urgent issue for the international community, as the global population rises, the world's economy and societies becomes more globalised, and the effects of climate change continue. It is impossible to completely prevent the occurrence of disasters; this is why it is so crucial to reduce disaster-related damage through multi-sector cooperation to promote disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction.
- \* The Third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, where the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted, took place in March 2015. It is crucial that the framework is implemented through the cooperation of not only national governments, but also local governments, civil society organisations, private sectors, and other actors. SDGs also refer to this framework, specifically in Target 11.b: “to substantially increase the development and implementation of holistic disaster risk management at all levels”.

### *2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related “Priority Areas and Policies” of the Guiding Principles: (Prosperity) Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure*

- \* The promotion of national resilience, the Priority Plan for Social Infrastructure Development, the Basic Plan for Housing (National Plan), as well as reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami have been enacted, especially with the aim of constructing sustainable cities and homes with improved infrastructure. However, disaster prevention measures cannot only focus on infrastructure; it is also necessary to build resilience (coping capacity and ability to recover) for disasters according to the circumstances of each area. For this reason, it is important to respect participation and collaboration of citizens, advance infrastructure development that takes into consideration the circumstances of diverse regions, and find ways to make use of the characteristics of local areas, including climate, culture, and lifestyles.

### 3) Recommendations

- \* It is necessary to exchange opinions with a range of stakeholders involved in disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction, and to formulate implementation guidelines based on the results. It is also necessary to have a system that keeps track of the progress of the implementation guidelines, and to continue reviewing the objectives and hypotheses.
- \* In the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in addition to natural disasters, man-made disasters were also included in the wider definition of the term “disaster”. Furthermore, as there are more than 400 nuclear power reactors around the world and the number is continually increasing, it is the primary responsibility of the Japanese government to proactively share information about the Fukushima nuclear disaster with the international community, in order to enhance disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction globally.



DRR Innovators Forum 2017 in Sendai  
© JCC-DRR



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction  
©JCC-DRR



## Social Responsibility

Kori Kuroda  
CSO Network



### *1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Business and Human Rights: The current status of development of national action plans on UN Business and Human Rights (NAPs) as of April 30, 2017 is the following:
  - » The number of States that have produced a national action plan is 14, including UK, Holland, US and others.
  - » The number of States that are in the process of developing a national action plan or have committed to doing one is 22, which includes Japan.
  - » The number of States in which either the NHRI (National Human Rights Institution) or civil society have begun steps in the development of a national action plan is 8.
- \* Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)
  - » Japan has some laws to promote sustainability, including the green procurement law, law to favour products by people with disability in public procurement, and the guideline policy on public procurement and use of subsidies for facilities promoting women's empowerment. However, there is no comprehensive policy package for "sustainable public procurement."
  - » In February 2014 the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament adopted directives aimed at simplifying public procurement procedures and making them more flexible.
  - » ISO (International Organizations for Standardization) published ISO 20400 (International Standard for Sustainable Procurement) in April 2017. This Standard is aimed for both public and private procurement.
  - » An amendment of "UK Modern Slavery Act" is underway in order to strengthen the impact of the Act on corporations. Reporting requirements for public procurement are being discussed.

### *2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related "Priority Areas and Policies" of the Guiding Principles: (People) 1. Empowerment of All People 2. Achievement of Good Health and Longevity (Prosperity) Creating Growth Markets, Revitalization of Rural Areas, and Promoting Science Technology and Innovation (Planet) Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Countermeasures, and Sound Material-Cycle Society (Partnership) Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs*

- \* Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)
  - » An importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships is written in several places of the SDGs Implementation Guideline.

»» “Business and human rights” is mentioned in the Guidance and a national action plan (NAP) and its progress are incorporated in the specific measures and its indicator, respectively.

»» The specific measures also include, “Promotion of green procurement,” “Further reduction of food losses and waste and promotion of food recycling,” “Spread of the “Consumer Citizen Society” concept through consumer education,” and “Awareness-raising for ethical consumption.”

»» Promotion of ESG Investment is included in the Guidance and specific measures.

\* However, there are almost no of measures to reduce inequalities which is a crucial element for sustainable development. It is quite contrary to a recent trend that economic inequalities are highlighted in the context of ESG investment.

### 3) Recommendations

\* We propose the following:

»» Substantive (not superficial) engagement with a broad range of stakeholders including civil society which is essential in the follow-up and review process of SDGs, similar to the process of NAP on business and human rights.

»» An introduction of “sustainable public procurement” to the Guidance as its importance has been heightened globally due to its significant impact on the economic market. It is the government’s responsibility as well as an important policy measure to promote the implementation of SDGs.



A study meeting organized by Civil Society Platform for Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (BHR-NAP Platform)  
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Sustainable Public Procurement in SDGs Era-Global Trend and Status in Japan  
©CSO Network Japan

# 10

## Environment

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Jiro Adachi  
Japan Center  
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### *1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* If all the people on the earth lives like an average Japanese, 2.3 earth is needed.
- \* The greenhouse effect gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission of the whole world is increasing and Japan emitting 1,234 million tons which ranks 5th of the world in 2013. Reinforcement of mitigation and adaptation measures in all countries including Japan is necessary.
- \* Recognition of the word "biodiversity" falls to 46.7% in 2014 from 55.7% in 2012 according to a survey by the Cabinet Office.

### *2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related "Priority Areas and Policies" of the Guiding Principles: (Planet) Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Countermeasures, and Sound Material-Cycle Society (Planet) Conservation of Environment, including Biodiversity, Forests and the Oceans*

- \* The importance of introducing experiences unique to Japan such as lesson-learned of air and water pollution and its broad impact on health as well as development of environmental engineering is not mentioned.
- \* Maintaining sound global environment and ecological system is the foundation of human society, but such recognition seems weak as policies are fragmented in different fields in the form of concrete measures.
- \* Having measure scattered in different policy areas makes it not easy to see the overall effect of achieving SDG goals and targets.

### 3) Recommendations

- \* In accordance with the Paris Agreement, the Aichi Targets and other environment related measures, policies that encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive environmental policies that integrate , socioeconomic and infrastructural elements are needed, and budgetary support needs to accompany such policies.
- \* GoJ should make policies that encourage ecosystem protection that is grounded in natural environment as well as natural and cultural diversity. Also, policies should be formed that promote actions based on partnerships in natural and cultural capitals.
- \* In order to achieve sustainable development in developing countries, sustain regional economies in Japan, and implement environmental measures nationally and globally, it is necessary to develop/distribute environmentally and socially proper service/products/technologies by Japanese corporations. Because of the increase in the number of corporations interested in the SDGs, GoJ should include domestic policies as well as support plans for developing countries in the budget and tax plan for FY2017, present detailed plans before 2019, and provide incentives for action by corporations.
- \* To achieve the SDGs on the premise of “leave no one behind,” “sustainability” and “universality, inclusiveness, and integration”, it is essential to reinforce environmental education at the national level that incorporates the SDGs.



The seminar was held to permeate and achieve SDGs  
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"Guide for SDGs" was created and distributed to raise awareness  
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# 11

## Youth

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Hideaki Tonoike  
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for Sustainability



### 1) *Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

- \* Due partly to lack of funding, inadequacy of structures and institutions which recognize youth as stakeholders, consultation with youth regarding SDGs only takes place voluntarily and its outcome is far from reflected on the SDGs implementation. The governments must not only recognize and support youth as distinctive stakeholders that have their own needs and vision but also promote the cooperation framework with independent youth groups.

### 2) *Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs Related “Priority Areas and Policies” of the Guiding Principles: (Partnership) Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs*

- \* Disaggregation of data, especially strengthening collection of data sorted by age group must be promoted further. It is essential from the principle of SDGs, “Leave no one behind,” to identify what groups are marginalised in light of this fundamental principle.
- \* It is essential to have the policy coherence and eyes of interlinkages in following up the progress of implementation of the SDGs national plan. Additionally, in order to adopt systematic review of implementation of sustainable development frameworks, cross-cutting platform needs to be established. Such a platform will provide an opportunity to go beyond the traditional siloed approach.

### 3) *Recommendations*

- \* We have a grave concern regarding the fact that no participation from children and youth representatives has been realized in the multi-stakeholder SDGs Promotion Roundtable. Full participation from marginalized groups in the follow-up processes must be ensured.
- \* Discussions on Attachment seem to be nothing more than mapping of each government ministry’s policy, and/or sorting out existing policies. Cross-cutting approach on overcoming challenges of each thematic area has not yet been realized. Using the mechanism of the Ministry of the Environment and ESD stakeholder conference as a model, a cross-cutting stakeholder participatory approach on different challenges must be established.



International Ocean Conference and what we can do at local level, partnership from ocean, climate change and bio-diversity  
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Panel Discussion on Promoting Transdisciplinary Research and Multi-stakeholder Collaboration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at Japan National Science Council”  
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# *Japan's Policies and Implementation Mechanism to Achieve the SDGs: Overall Evaluation / Current Situation and Challenges*

## *Attachment 1*

Yoko Ono  
Advocacy Specialist,  
Save the Children Japan,

### *1) Creating Ownership of SDGs*

#### **【 Multi-stakeholder Process 】**

During the development process of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, a committee named “SDGs Promotion Roundtable” was established. The Roundtable included the participation of various stakeholders, including civil society. Furthermore, the planning process included a short period where the public was able to comment on the SDGs, enabling the extraction of comments from the general public.

Civil Society gives high marks to the Government of Japan (GoJ) for conducting a multi-stakeholder process. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acting as the focal point, made the effort to collect substantive input for the development of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles. GoJ's willingness and activeness to receive input from civil society was reflected in the development process. The establishment of “SDGs Promotion Roundtable” is clearly stated in the main document of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles. Civil society applauds the recognition of the multi-stakeholder process in the formal and public document.

However, challenges remain. Although steps were taken for a multi-stakeholder process, the incredibly short time span of half a year from the announcement to the development of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles did not allow for sufficient discussion to take place on matters raised and pressed by the civil society since the initial stages. This includes 1) Analyzing the current state of Japan and the world to identify areas of unsustainability, 2) Identifying areas of incoherency between the SDGs and existing national strategies and policies and 3) Ensuring coherency and introducing new policies and measures to fill the gaps. Furthermore, SDGs Roundtable did not include the participation of representatives of children, youth and provinces outside the capital. A review must take place to secure a more inclusive society and ensure the participation of the wide-ranging and diverse regions and social groups.

Moreover, actors influential in GoJ's policy decisions, such as economic organizations (e.g. Japan Business Federation), unions and local governments, are still standing in the start line in terms of their understanding of the SDGs. Thus, the SDGs have yet to permeate from them to the general population. Nor have these influential actors significantly engaged the Diet on SDGs. Civil society will continue to make the effort to increase understanding of SDGs of influential actors. However, there is a need to accelerate the establishment of ownership towards the achievement of the SDGs among Japanese society.

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## Attachment 1

# Japan's Policies and Implementation Mechanism to Achieve the SDGs: Overall Evaluation / Current Situation and Challenges

Yoko Ono - Advocacy Specialist, Save the Children Japan,

## 2) Measures of the Government System on SDGs

### 【 Vision Lacks Clarity 】

The following three points are vital to evaluating the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles:

1. Does it clearly state a vision of a society in 2030 (Clear Vision)
2. Does it identify the challenge and barriers in achieving the vision (Problem Identification and Analysis)
3. Does it contain actions/policies to overcome (changes/reform) these challenges and barriers (strategies and implementation measures)

Although the vision is in line with the 2030 Agenda, it does not clearly indicate the difference between the current social and economic structure and the sustainable society that we are aiming towards. Furthermore, it does not clearly recognize social groups left behind.

Although Japan is considered a “developed country”, there are many issues such as the existence of poverty, aging population with declining birth rate, declining population, diminishing environmental diversity and inequality, which makes Japan an unsustainable society. But Japan’s measures to overcome these challenges are “business as usual” – prioritization of economy and economic development. As presented in the SDGs, elimination of poverty and inequality will help create a sustainable society. Government, along with the various actors, must develop a clear vision that will create a truly sustainable society.

As a result of a vision lacking in clarity, problem identification and analysis also lacks clarity. Many weaknesses can be seen in the current document. For example, Agenda 2030 calls for “equal opportunity for woman in government participation, employment, leadership and decision making”. Gender equality is a deep pressing issue in Japan, but there is no clear mention of this challenge.

The current SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles does not address the underlying social economic structure of society. Instead, the document only wants to move forward

with measures that addresses existing and obvious stand-alone issues. Instead of an “outside-in” approach, where current challenges are identified based on the desired future and taking measures for change, Japan is taking an “inside-out” approach where they move forward exiting measures. Civil society is disappointed that as a result of this approach, the Specific Measures to achieve the SDGs is just a chart filled by gathering existing policies and measure that may contribute to the SDGs.

“Inside-out” approach, or building on existing measures is of course very important. However, despite the existence of a structure led by the Prime Minister with horizontal cooperation among Ministries, there is no clear political will to achieve a sustainable society through the “outside-in” approach. Nor are there any policy developments based on the “outside-in” approach. Changing society is difficult, and the opportunities to demonstrate leadership at both national and international stage will disappear. As we move towards the scheduled 2019 Review of SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, civil society will not only work at the grassroots level; but also push for the Government, with comprehensive and horizontal cooperation among Ministries, to take measures based on the “outside-in” approach

### 【 Policy Integration 】

In order to achieve the SDGs, it will be vital to take measures to make various national plans, strategies, policies, international trade agreements, etc. cohesive with the SDGs. However, SDGs are often left in the fringes as they are regarded as supplemental. In Japan, SDGs neither overarch nor encompass the various national policies and strategies such as guiding principles on revitalizing Japan. Although the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles calls for the “mainstreaming of SDGs”, there are currently few efforts to make this possible. Furthermore, there is not budget to support the efforts to mainstream the SDGs.

### 【 Secure Implementation Principles 】

Partly because of civil society efforts, the main document of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles clearly states the “Implementation Principles (universality, inclusiveness, participatory, integration, transparency and accountability)”. Civil society also gives high marks for clearly stating “Human Rights” and “Gender” as a cross cutting issue that must be addressed in all areas of development.

However, improvements and revisions are required. As mentioned before, the Specific Measures to achieve the SDGs is just a chart filled by gathering existing policies and measure that may contribute to the SDG, and as the guarantee of inter-ministry cooperation is not completely clear, the three points vital to evaluating the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles may be difficult to utilize. For example, an economic policy may make progress in achieving economic goals, but the same measure may create negative effects on the environment and human rights. Currently, no measures exists that allows for an integrated and comprehensive monitoring of these paradoxes.

SDGs envisions a “society where no one is left behind”, stipulating “inclusiveness” as an implementation principle. In order to take concrete actions to achieve such a society, it will be essential to put the focus on societies that are most left behind, and measure their progress and achievements.

The main document clearly states that implementation measures will be appraised by and in accordance to the “Implementation Principles”. There is a need for a structure, cutting across different ministries, where a transparent, inclusive and participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting can take place on SDGs measures and principles. This structure should be set up as soon as possible.

### 3) Mechanism

#### 【 Structure and Organization of Government in SDGs Promotion

GoJ’s SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles was developed by the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, which is headed by the Prime Minister and includes all members of the Cabinet. As SDGs cuts across many issues, horizontal cooperation among Ministries will be vital. Thus, Civil society give high marks on the establishment of a structure that includes the Prime Minister and all Cabinet members.

Furthermore, civil society applauds the GoJ for setting up inter-ministerial coordination meetings with participation of all ministries while developing the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles. SDGs are also national goals. The notion that SDGs as “something international” was avoided because of the participation and coordination of all ministries. There is need to reaffirm the following: although the SDGs include the words “Development Goals”, the SDGs are goals that needs to be achieved by developed countries including Japan; and the SGDs is “our vision” for making a sustainable society.

Moreover, the process of participation and coordination within ministries and among ministries is uncertain. As the ministries move forward in their work to achieve the SDGs, it will be vital to reduce the commitment differences and increase understanding within and among ministries. An issue that must be addressed is the difference in the level of participation, commitment and activeness among and within ministries. Overcoming this issue will be vital in ensuring sustainability within Japan.

Goal 16 of SDGs calls for government institutions to be more effective, accountable, and transparent; and ensure a more participatory, inclusive and responsive decision making process. Japan’s SDG promotion mechanism, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, must work in accordance with SDGs Goal 16. Under strong government leadership, there is a need for participatory decision making, strong cooperation among government bodies and enhancement of their capacity to implement policies. And most of all, to achieve the SDGs, substantial funding by “Special Budget for SDGs” is necessary to make tangible implementation possible.

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# Attachment 2

## Youth Comments on Thematic Areas

### *1) Most pressing challenge that must be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs*

#### **【 Overall Youth comments 】**

Due partly to lack of funding, inadequacy of structures and institutions which recognize youth as stakeholders, consultation with youth regarding SDGs only takes place voluntarily and its outcome is far from reflected on the SDGs implementation. The governments must not only recognize and support youth as distinctive stakeholders that have their own needs and vision but also promote the cooperation framework with independent youth groups.

Disaggregation of data, especially strengthening collection of data sorted by age group must be promoted further. It is essential from the principle of SDGs, “Leave no one behind,” to identify what groups are marginalised in light of this fundamental principle.

It is essential to have the policy coherence and eyes of interlinkages in following up the progress of implementation of the SDGs national plan. Additionally, in order to adopt systematic review of implementation of sustainable development frameworks, cross-cutting platform needs to be established. Such a platform will provide an opportunity to go beyond the traditional siloed approach.

#### **【 Thematic area of Education 】**

Japan comes to the 2nd out of 20 OECD countries on the ratio of private burden against public finance regarding tertiary education (OECD 2013). Also, Japan spends significantly low public expenditure to cover tertiary education (32nd out of 33 OECD countries) (OECD 2013).

Japan is ranked high in the number of students per classroom among OECD countries, which causes pre-occupation of teachers. This busy state of teachers has been intensified

by surrounding economic and cultural environment of children and their need and academic ability which have diversified.

There is not enough awareness of SDGs and ESD in educational institutions, and a gap between policies and its implementation is large.

#### **【 Thematic area of Climate Change 】**

Although the Paris Agreement calls for maintaining the rise in temperature under 1.5 Celsius degrees, the total sum of currently measured NDC (National Determined Contributions) of all countries will not be sufficient to achieve the goal of 2.0/1.5 Celsius degrees

NDC of Japan received “insufficient”, which is the lowest evaluation, by an international research institute Climate Action Tracker.

Despite the fact that there is an increased trend today that climate action plans be viewed as investment-grade indicators by global institutional investors, such trends have not gathered much attention in Japan.

#### **【 Thematic Area of Biodiversity 】**

Public awareness of biodiversity in Japan has not been increasing, and has not been integrated into people’s daily lives and activities.

Greenwashing has been on the rise, where company products are only concerned with economic benefits and as a result it contributes to the degradation of biodiversity.

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Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability

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Dennis Chia, Reina Takahara, Masaaki Nagareo  
ESD Youth Japan

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Japan Biodiversity youth Network

## *2) Review of the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles and Specific Measures to Achieve the SDGs*

### **【 Overall youth comments 】**

Disaggregation of data, especially strengthening collection of data sorted by age group must be promoted further. It is essential from the principle of SDGs, “Leave no one behind,” to identify what groups are marginalised in light of this fundamental principle.

It is essential to have the policy coherence and eyes of interlinkages in following up the progress of implementation of the SDGs national plan. Additionally, in order to adopt systematic review of implementation of sustainable development frameworks, cross-cutting platform needs to be established. Such a platform will provide an opportunity to go beyond the traditional siloed approach.

### **【 Thematic area of Education 】**

High tuition fees and cost for the tertiary education and high burden on students undermine the equitable access for the poor to opportunities. The “loan” type of finance should be distinguished from scholarship as it has an issue of equity.

The large number of students in one classroom hinders maintaining the quality education for all.

Policy processes on ESD are not adequately participatory. There is a lack of bottom up approach in which organisations and schools working on ESD have a say in policymaking.

### **【 Thematic area of Climate Change 】**

Contributions to the goal of 2.0/1.5 Celsius degrees should be explicit in the national promotion plans for combating

global warming and basic energy plan. GoJ’s current plan is not sufficient, and it should take up more responsibilities in global climate action.

It is a good step that global business trends such as the ESG investment are mentioned. We look forward to seeing concrete domestic policies for these trends.

### **【 Thematic area of Bio-diversity 】**

Issues related to biodiversity has implications on all aspects of our lives. What is still lacking is policy on consumers. The sustainable consumption and production should be addressed together.

Although a larger attention is given to the promotion of renewable energy, there is a lack of attention on biodiversity. For example, setting up mega solar panels needs to consider its impacts on biodiversity and should be implemented only if it does not hurt the environment.

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## Attachment 2

# Youth Comments on Thematic Areas

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Yuri Nakao, Sayuri Ono, Maho Shinoda, Dennis Chia, Reina Takahara, Masaaki Nagareo - ESD Youth Japa

Hiroki Tsuda - Climate Youth Japan

Hikichi Ando, Tokutake Iida - Japan Biodiversity youth Network

### 3) Mechanism

#### 【 Overall youth comments 】

We were disappointed to see no participation from children and youth representatives in the multi-stakeholder round table. Full participation from marginalized groups in the follow-up processes must be ensured, including women, persons with disability, and older persons, among others.

Discussion on specific measures seems nothing more than a mere mapping exercise of each ministry's policy, and sorting out existing policies. Cross-cutting approach on challenges of each thematic area has not yet been implemented. Following the mechanism of the Ministry of the Environment and ESD stakeholder meeting, cross-cutting stakeholder engagement on each thematic area should be further explored.

#### 【 Thematic area of Education 】

GoJ should invest more in tertiary education so that more students will be able to receive necessary education.

GoJ should guarantee a quality education and reduce the burden on individual teachers by decreasing the number of student per classroom.

GoJ should reflect on its policy the present situations and needs from schools/organizations for accelerating the incorporation of ESD activities and establish a third party organization which can act as an intermediary between them.

#### 【 Thematic area of Climate Change 】

Contributions to the goal of 2.0/1.5 Celsius degrees should be explicit in the national promotion plans for combating global warming and basic energy plan. GoJ's current plan is

not sufficient, and it should take up more responsibilities in global climate action.

Despite the fact the Paris Agreement calls for maintaining the rise in temperature under 1.5 Celsius degrees, the total sum of currently measured NDC (National Determined Contributions) of all countries will not be sufficient to achieve the goal of 2.0/1.5 Celsius degrees

National policy and system have a strong influence on investment trends, and thus it has to be developed in accordance with the progressive global investment grade indicators in practice.

#### 【 Thematic area of Biodiversity 】

In addition to the production-related policy, there also should be a focus on the promotion of public awareness through consumption, tourism, health sector and community development based upon cultural service of ecosystem; all of which enable more opportunities for sustainable conservation activities and promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity. It is critically important to combine biodiversity concern with other thematic areas.

It is necessary to have clear measurements to examine whether certain environmental conservation activities are not seeking any economic benefit at the expense of ecosystem degradation.

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JAPAN CIVIL SOCIETY  
NETWORK ON  
**SDGs**  
SDGs 市民社会ネットワーク