

Statement by Mr. Noboru Sekiguchi
Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
At the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I would like to stress the fact that nearly two years have already passed since the adoption of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), and that it is imperative that we boldly accelerate the implementation of these two Agendas in the field.

We are of the view that this Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up should serve as a show-case of the best practices and a venue for the sharing of knowledge among multi-stakeholders in order to accelerate implementation.

One of our priorities in this implementation is to foster the mobilization of both domestic and international private financing, as stated in Action Area B of the AAAA. It is clear that public funds alone cannot fill the colossal funding gap we face in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Tapping into the vast pool of resources of the private sector has been and will continue to be one of the single most important tasks in financing the SDGs. The question is, how? How can we attract private actors to the UN? How can we combine the logic and culture of the UN with those of the private sector?

Where there is no profit, there will be no private investment. By the same token, projects which manage return a profit while contributing to the 2030 Agenda will naturally attract private investment. We should recall that the private sector is already eager to invest in mutually beneficial arrangements.

The creation of such mutually beneficial business models and the establishment of enabling environments are essential for mobilizing the private sector. In addition to the current discussion on financing, especially innovative financing, we urge our colleagues to consider how we might best foster the creation of structures and models that simultaneously generate profit, attract investment and help us achieve the SDGs.

Several projects in this mold are underway. One of them is the SDGs Holistic Innovation Platform, or SHIP. SHIP is a joint project by UNDP and the Japan Innovation Network (JIN) which is an association of Japanese corporations.

SHIP is an open innovation platform that seeks innovation opportunities toward the achievement of the SDGs, and aims to solve worldwide issues and challenges with corporate know-how and technologies.

Through SHIP, the participating firms and UNDP cooperate to establish business practices that uphold both sustainability and profitability. JIN will further elaborate the undergoing programs of SHIP during Roundtable B tomorrow.

We have no time to lose in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA. The Japanese Government stands ready to make constructive contributions in this endeavor.

I thank you.