

## **Input by the Government of Japan to the Draft Declaration for the High-Level Segment of UNFF15**

### **1. General Comments**

- The declaration of the High-Level Segment should be concise, including a clear message on high-level commitments and ways forward towards achieving sustainable forest management.

### **2. Suggested Elements**

#### **(1) Recognition of the importance of planted forests**

- Demand for forest products continues to expand globally, while forest area continues to decline. To address this problem, we need to facilitate the sustainable and circular use of forest resources (such as timber which is essential for human livelihood) by driving sustainable forest management efforts worldwide.
- The role of planted forests under sustainable management is becoming more important. Well managed planted forests contribute to conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of carbon stocks as well as sustainable timber production.
- Promotion of sustainable forestry through local resources also improves livelihoods of local communities, ensuring their job security and income opportunities.

#### **(2) Importance of revitalizing local communities through utilizing forest resources**

- Forests, aside from providing timber products, generate value to local communities through offering forest services that serve to improve local livelihoods, living conditions and education within those communities.
- These efforts contribute to improving productive employment, physical as well as mental health wellbeing and opportunities for high-quality education.

#### **(3) Importance of disaster risk reduction and prevention through forests**

- Strengthening resilience against intensifying disaster risks from global warming is becoming an urgent issue for the international community.
- Forests play a key role in disaster risk reduction and prevention. Through soil conservation, watersheds and climate change mitigation, forests help prevent landslides, floods and help conserve productive lands, including farms. Reinforcement in sustainable forest management is therefore essential in containing disaster risks.