

Speech at COP21 by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

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http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201512/1214750_9934.html

Introduction

First of all, I express my deepest condolences to the victims of the recent terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris. I extend my respect for and show my solidarity with President Hollande and both the Government and people of France, who refused to submit to terrorism by opening COP21.

Today we must demonstrate our ability to overcome overwhelming challenges with our solidarity no matter how different our nations or cultures are.



Significance of the Paris Agreement

Eighteen years ago, the Kyoto Protocol, an important step to counter global warming, was adopted. Global average temperature, however, has been on the gradual rise ever since. We have witnessed frequent occurrence of extreme-weather-related disasters worldwide such as heavy rain and drought. Beautiful islands now face the risk of submersion. The Earth is the sole homeland to our humankind. We must hand it down safely to the generations of our children and grandchildren. Now is high time to build a new international framework, which developed and developing countries join together.

Constructive proposal for the international framework

Many point out that the present INDCs submitted by countries alone are unlikely to achieve the below 2°C objective. I would like the Paris Agreement to include the setting of a long-term goal as well as the establishment of a common process for the review of nationally determined mitigation contributions.

Japan on its part will steadily implement its already-submitted, ambitious INDC and its national adaptation plan.

Japan's new set of contributions: Actions for Cool Earth (ACE) 2.0 (support to developing countries, innovation)

Japan has announced the “Actions for Cool Earth 2.0,” “ACE 2.0” for short. This is a reinforcement of Japan’s contribution to climate change actions which was presented as “ACE” in 2013.

The first component of the contribution is our support to developing countries. We cannot overlook the difficulties of those developing countries suffering from negative impacts of climate change. Japan will provide, in 2020, approximately JPY 1.3 trillion of public and private climate finance, 1.3 times the current level, to developing countries. I believe the increased finance from Japan, if added to the accumulated contributions by countries and international organizations, clarify a pathway to the achievement of the commitment made at COP15: the mobilization by 2020 of USD 100 billion in climate finance per year to developing countries.

We will enrich the livelihood of people living on the Earth, while we reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will take geothermal energy from the center of the Earth and deliver clean electricity to people in Africa. We shed light generated from sunlight in those areas not yet covered with the power grid. We pass on what cities in Japan have gone through to various emerging Asian cities that are experiencing rapidly growing concentration of population. We provide necessary equipment and know-how so that people of island states in the Pacific can evacuate with ample time available before a typhoon approaches. These are several fields of activities in which Japanese companies have been engaged for a long time and have sophisticated their skills. I am fully confident that we can be of great help for every one of you.

Japan has contributed USD 1.5 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). I would like to see the fund made available for the support to developing countries as soon as possible. I will ensure Japan's involvement in the work of GCF from the project-forming stage for swift implementation of next year's support of USD 2.5 billion.

The second component of Japan's new set of contributions is innovation. The key to acting against climate change without sacrificing economic growth is the development of innovative technologies. To illustrate, there are technologies to produce, store, and transport hydrogen towards realizing CO₂-free societies and a next-generation battery to enable an electric car to run five times longer than the current level. By next spring Japan will formulate the "Energy and Environment Innovation Strategy." Prospective focused areas will be identified and research and development on them will be strengthened.

The "Mission Innovation," proposed by the interested countries, is in line with what Japan has consistently worked on, and I hereby express Japan's intention to join the initiative.

In addition, many of the advanced low-carbon technologies do not generally promise investment return to developing countries. Japan will, while lowering burdens of those countries, promote diffusion of advanced low carbon technologies particularly through implementation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

Conclusion

We, the leaders of the world, have all gathered here in Paris despite the challenges posed by the terrorist attack. Let all of us achieve an agreement on a new framework and show our solidarity.