

being conducted. In addition, there is rising momentum driving the development of new technologies in the industrial sector, and an increasing appearance of voluntary initiatives to curb emissions of carbon dioxide. Indeed, we are seeing steady growth in the so-called "Eco-industry." What is more, we have developed Household Eco-account Books unprecedented in the world, which aims to change household consumption patterns and is now being distributed around Japan. While car manufactures are making serious effort to achieve the world's strictest fuel efficiency standards, a nationwide movement has started to reduce unnecessary engine idling of motor vehicles. We have also initiated a process to reform governmental activities with a view toward making them more environmentally friendly, including purchase of low emission vehicles.

Mr. President,

Japan has actively cooperated with the in-depth review team last year. The results of that review are to be submitted to this session. According to the results, Japan has been commended as one of the countries with the highest energy efficiency in the world. However, it was sternly pointed out that, taken as a whole, the extremely diverse range of measures which are being undertaken in Japan are not necessarily proceeding in an effective manner. The Vice-Minister for International Trade and Industry, who is responsible for energy policy, is present here today and this witnesses that the Government of Japan will work in a well coordinated manner and I can assure that we take a more cost-effective approach to stabilize emission levels of greenhouse gases.

I believe that the measures taken by each country at home and those based on international commitments are mutually supportive in improving the quality of the environment. As such, while considering to strengthen international commitments for the 21st century, it is vital that we should also seek to strengthen the domestic measures and I would herein propose that the ministers gathered here take a vow to fulfill this.

Mr. President,

Japan, as an industrialized country, must play a leading role based on the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities. We have also been improving and enhancing the assistance to developing countries, in order to promote measures all over the world to counter global warming. In keeping with our commitment to expand Official Development Assistance for the environment announced at the Earth Summit, by last year, Japan has already contributed more than US\$9 billion over a four-year period, meeting the commitment one year ahead of the initial five-year schedule. Additional assistance is continuing. Japan is taking a wide-ranging initiatives including international training courses, workshops for experts on national communication and response measures, joint international research projects, and assistance for international cooperation between local governments. Indeed, there is growing interest among Japanese industrial sector, non-governmental organizations