

Mr. President,

Japan believes that six points should be reflected as basic concepts in the legal instrument to be formulated; these are precautionary measures, environmental effectiveness, equitable and efficient distribution of policy efforts, positive direction and positive efforts, creation of a foundation for world-wide measures, and active use of technologies.

Based upon these recognitions, the Government of Japan presented a suggestion at the Ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate(AGBM) held last week with regard to QELROs. This suggestion aims to strengthen the effort of each country for the 21st century with differentiated targets among countries, by applying the rates of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of activities such as GDP, within the broad framework of reducing total carbon dioxide emissions of developed countries over the medium-to long-term, without loosening current commitments by each party under the Convention. However, Japan does not insist solely on this particular idea of carbon dioxide emission rates, and we welcome other proposals that are more feasible and more effective in achieving environmental conservation, and we wish to advance our work to further develop the discussions at the AGBM and give shape to it.

Mr. President,

We have heard a broad range of expectation with respect to an international agreement, which we must develop. For example, it should be fully implemented by all Parties, should be highly feasible to implement, and it should produce major effect on environmental benefits. In order to respond to these diverse expectations, we must not allow our discussions to focus only on the modalities of the objectives. We must consider a good design of policies and measures, and a way to review the degree to which the commitment is being fulfilled. Only through a process of coordinating the entire framework of the commitment can we possibly meet diverse expectations. Japan wishes to make proposals addressing these points to facilitate the discussion in the forthcoming AGBM meetings.

Mr. President,

As early as in 1990, Japan formulated the Action Program to Arrest Global Warming, and initiated wide-ranging governmental measures. Still, it is true that the levels of carbon dioxide emissions in Japan in FY1994 significantly exceeded the levels of 1990.

Hence, Japan is strengthening its efforts to fulfill the commitment under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. At the meeting of the Council of Ministries for Global Environment Conservation held recently, our Prime Minister directed the relevant ministers to take measures to ensure a greater degree of energy conservation in the industrial, transport, and residential and commercial sectors. In response, earnest consideration is underway on additional measures including those which can significantly expand energy conservation. Furthermore, a technology assessment for environmental conservation is