

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Shibata Hironori,
Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia
At the FfD4 1st Preparatory Meeting General Debate**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my respect for the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia and other concerned parties in organizing the FfD4 first preparatory meeting.

As the progress toward achieving the SDGs by 2030 faces great challenges, addressing development financing needs is an urgent priority. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled for next year is a very important opportunity for the international community to strengthen its response to those development financing needs.

Japan is taking the lead in mobilizing funds for global issues. At the same time, the role of private-sector funds in achieving the SDGs is becoming increasingly important. Japan is examining new ways to utilize ODA as a catalyst to build an "ecosystem" in which investment activities based on the economic rationality of the private sector will ultimately lead to the sustainable development of developing countries.

Moreover, development finance must be fair and transparent and not undermine the debt sustainability of developing countries. All creditor and debtor countries should reaffirm their adherence to international rules and standards and promote development finance that leads to balanced and sustainable growth of developing countries.

In addition to promoting the mobilization of funding, it is also important to make continuous efforts to improve effectiveness and impact of development projects. In this regard, we hope that the importance of effective development cooperation will be confirmed at this conference with a view to creating a system in which finance for development can produce effective results in an efficient manner.

Under the principle of human security, it is important to promote effective and sustainable efforts to achieve the SDGs by the international community as a whole. I hope that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development will produce effective and sustainable results through careful discussions. Japan will continue to constructively contribute to the discussions.

I thank you.

(318 words, 3 minutes)