

(As delivered)

**Statement by Dr. Eiji Hinoshita
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UNDP Segment: Item 6 - United Nations Volunteers**

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Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Associate Administrator for her introduction and the UNV Executive Coordinator for his detailed presentation of the report. We appreciate the contribution of UNV to the promotion of volunteerism for peace and development worldwide.

Mr. President,

Under the leadership of the Executive Coordinator, UNV has been making efforts toward implementing results-based management, and it appears that it will continue to do so as expressed in the strategic framework, 2014-2017. The Government of Japan, as a strong supporter of volunteering, welcomes the efforts of UNV to create the framework.

Mr. President,

The Government of Japan appreciates UNV's active engagement with such issues as gender and the social inclusion of youth in its activities. For example, UNV has been conducting a university volunteer scheme in cooperation with Kwansai Gakuin University, in Japan. Pilot programmes based on this scheme have been expanded to the Republic of Korea, Hungary, Poland, Qatar and Bahrain. Also, a representative volunteer from Kwansai Gakuin University will present her experience

through the university volunteer scheme at the UNV Partnerships Forum to be held on 30 September and 1 October in Bonn, Germany. We hope that their voices will lead to greater attention toward and understanding of youth volunteers.

Mr. President,

The Government of Japan held its first strategic dialogue with UNV in March. Building upon the dialogue, we have been strengthened by our effective and strategic collaboration with UNV, in particular within five priority areas of the strategic framework. The framework covers the concepts of a people-centered approach, inclusiveness and resilience, and includes the issues of women, health, disaster risk reduction and peace building. These concepts and issues are precisely areas on which Japan attaches the greatest importance within its international diplomacy, and therefore, the Government of Japan supports the framework and intends to work with UNV in order to implement it.

Mr. President,

Volunteering is a common and valuable way to empower people around the world. Volunteering is an activity in which everyone can participate, if they have the will to do so. Japan looks forward to discussing how we might further promote volunteering, in close cooperation with UNV and the other Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.