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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Seventh session
Nairobi, 7-18 August 1995
Agenda item 2

IMPLEMENTATION OF URGENT ACTION FOR AFRICA
AND ACTION IN OTHER REGIONS:
COMPILATION OF INFORMATION

Contribution from the Government of Japan
(received on 24 May 1995)

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JAPAN'S RESPONSE TO THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Paragraph 6 of the Resolution 6/1 on organization and programme of work for the interim period adopted by the Committee at its 6th session requests its member countries to "submit to the Secretariat updated reports on the measures taken or planned for the implementation of the Urgent Action for Africa and action in other regions."

This paper is prepared, in accordance with the Resolution above mentioned, to provide summarized information on Japan's response to the Convention and the Resolution on Urgent Action for Africa.

It should be noted that this paper exclusively includes major efforts made or planned since Japan's signature to the Convention at the Signing Ceremony held in Paris in October 1994.

1. Measures taken or planned

(a) Japan took up desertification issue as one of the major areas of global environmental issues in the Environment Basic Plan adopted by the Cabinet in December 1994, re-affirming its commitment to positive contribution for the implementation of the Convention.

(b) Japan has increased its national budget relating to desertification problem for FY 1995 by 21 percent in amount(*) in order to strengthen the national efforts mainly in the field of research and development, such as pilot project on efficient water use in affected areas, to combat desertification and

mitigate the effect of drought.

(c) Japan dispatched a survey mission to Senegal to further clarify the needs and examine the possible way to support in the area of desertification, as a specific effort for the international cooperation responding to the Resolution on Urgent Action for Africa. Japan is therefore going to further explore the specific measures in order to provide the effective assistance for Senegal based on the report to be compiled by the mission.

(d) Japan contributed US\$100,000 to the International Symposium on Sustainable Water Management in Arid and Semi-arid Regions held in Israel in May 15-19, and sent an expert to the Symposium to make a presentation regarding Japanese experience and knowledge in the field of the use of sewage effluent, taking into account the importance of the dissemination of scientific information in order to promote the international cooperation.

(e) Japan plans to make an additional financial contribution to the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund of INCD, the amount of which will be formally announced at 8th session of INCD, recognizing the expectation that Japan, as a chairperson of Working Group 2, would play a constructive role towards the 1st COP.

(*) The figure does not include bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs and projects.

2. Promotion of Public Awareness

In accordance with the paragraph 1 of the Resolution 6/2 on Promotion of public awareness adopted by the Committee at its 6th session: Observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, Japan has taken and/or plans to implement the following activities to promote public awareness in itself:

(a) Provisional Japanese text of the Convention has been drafted(**) and also been made public,

(b) A small brochure, which is illustrating the serious situation of desertification, major elements of the Convention and necessary Japan's initiatives to combat desertification and mitigate the effect of drought, is now being prepared and is planned to be widely distributed to the public in Japan,

(c) A poster presentation relating to desertification is going to be held in Tokyo during the Eco-Life-Fair 95' which has been yearly taken place in June since 1990.

(**) Official translation will be completed prior to the conclusion of the Convention.