

**Resolution on the Desirable Form of Japan's International Aid
toward the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit
and the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development
(TICAD IV)
(Main Points)**

May 16, 2008

**Special Committee of the House of Councillors
on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters**

10 Measures Required of the Government

1. Need to Increase ODA and Set Numerical Targets

- Should endeavor to restore the ratio of Japan's ODA to GNI to 0.25% by 2010.
- Should make efforts to increase the ratio of ODA to GNI to 0.7% by 2015, which is an international target.
- With a view to the success of TICAD IV, should expand ODA to Africa in particular.

2. Cooperation for Achieving the MDGs

- At TICAD IV and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, should affirm the strengthening of assistance for achieving the MDGs.
- From the perspective of "human security," should contribute to measures in the fields of health, water, and infectious diseases.

3. Promotion of Well-Modulated Assistance to Africa

- Should promote the prioritization of fields of assistance and the prioritization of recipient countries and emphasize assistance in the fields of health and hygiene and education.
- Should cooperate with the African Union and others and thoroughly carry out a follow-up of the TICAD process, including verification and evaluation of implementation.

4. Achievement of "Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth" in African Assistance

- Should utilize Japan's aid experience in East Asia and respond in consideration of the stage of development, etc. of the recipient country.

- Should actively consider rational and effective economic support for growth sectors using yen loans.
- In the implementation of economic support, should give proper consideration to the improvement of governance, aid coordination, and the heavy debt problem.

5. Strengthening of Relationship with UN Aid Organizations and Ensuring Financial Contributions

- Should make efforts to ensure an appropriate level of contributions in order to reflect Japan's aid policy in international assistance trends.

6. Active Utilization of ODA to solve Environmental and Climate Change Problems

- Should provide active assistance in relation to environmental and climate change problems, including the "Cool Earth Partnership" concept.
- Should make efforts to effectively utilize ODA and promote the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

7. Quick Response to Rise in Food Prices

- As well as emergency support, should consider countermeasures through a comprehensive framework, including a response to background factors, such as the problem of climate change.
- Should actively adopt assistance measures to foster and strengthen the agricultural industry, including technical development to increase food production.

8. Need for Urgent Efforts by the Government Toward the Fostering of Aid-Related Human Resources

- Should promote studies toward the building of a mechanism for the development and recruitment of aid-related human resources through cooperation between the public and private sectors.
- In particular, should actively and specifically study the creation of a Human Security Center (tentative name).

9. Need for Aid Philosophy, Aid Strategy, and Regional Strategic Policies and Involvement of the National Diet

- Should establish an aid philosophy and aid strategy and make effective utilization of the comparative advantage of Japan in countries and regions receiving aid.
- Should promote studies on the formulation of "regional strategic policies" that give consideration to discussions in the Overseas Economic Cooperation Council.

- Regarding the “Priority Policies in International Cooperation and Priority Issues by Region,” should give due consideration to discussions in this Special Committee and report on the state of progress, etc. to the Special Committee.

10. Ensuring the Necessity, Rationality, Transparency, and Fairness of Assistance

- Should make efforts to disclose and provide adequate information to the Diet regarding the actual conditions, performance, planning, etc. of international assistance.

Background of the Resolution

1. Taking advantage of the special features of the House of Councillors in the bicameral system, the Special Committee of the House of Councillors on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters has been actively engaged in studies on the various problems relating to Japan’s ODA. On June 13, 2007, it compiled a set of seven proposals in order to convey thoughts from the Diet concerning the desirable form of Japan’s international aid and cooperation and to have these thoughts reflected in Japan’s ODA policy.

2. This year Japan is hosting the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit and TICAD IV. In addition, among other things, this year marks the halfwaypoint toward the achievement of the MDGs and the scheduled launch of a new JICA. Accordingly, this year Japan’s ODA is attracting much attention from around the world.

3. Bearing in mind these factors, the Special Committee of the House of Councillors on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters invited knowledgeable persons from UN development-related organizations, NGOs, the embassies of African countries in Tokyo, and others as voluntary testifiers and held discussions on such topics as the desirable form of assistance to Africa and the desirable form of Japan’s ODA.

4. Toward the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit and TICAD IV, the Special Committee decided to adopt this resolution in order to convey thoughts from the Diet concerning the desirable form of Japan’s international aid and to have these thoughts reflected in Japan’s ODA policy.