Statement from Japan at Opening Segment

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, Good morning. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General of ITU Mr. Houlin Zhao, and the members of the WSIS Secretariat and all stakeholders.

To accomplish this year’s WSIS forum theme, “Information and Knowledge Societies for SDGs”, I’d like to comment on 3 Key Factors today from a viewpoint of multi-stakeholders partnership.

### 3 Key Success Factors

**The first is to ensure access to ICT for all people everywhere.**
- Building an enabling environment for access to ICT and the Internet is the essential foundation for inclusive growth.
- Bridging digital divides is the most crucial and urgent issue because still half of people on globe do not have access.
- Japan promotes the public-private initiative named “Quality Infrastructure Investment” and contributes bridging digital divides through developing ICT infrastructure in the world.
- From a long-term perspective, the key is how to reduce Life Cycle Cost of infrastructure considering operation and maintenance cost, not only focusing on cheap initial cost.
- This initiative includes not only developing long-term sustainable infrastructure with a high operation rate, but also capacity building and technological transfer for operation and maintenance.
- It is also important to make fair and transparent policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage competition and investment through open process of decision making or joining multi-stakeholders.
- These can achieve affordable access, and as a consequence, people around the world regardless of income, region, gender and disability can have an access means to ICT.

**The second is to promote and protect the free flow of information.**
- The free flow of information is essential for multi-stakeholder approach to make the best use of ICT and innovation such as AI and Big Data by every stakeholders.
- Effective utilization of information is a powerful enabler of further innovation and economic development.

**The third is to promote and utilize Innovation.**
- Promoting innovation will increase the number of entrepreneurs, provision of new services and goods, and create a new business and market.
- Then create employment and wealth will be created. This will contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- Innovation like IoT, big data and AI is a great opportunity for economic development.
- AI can improve productivity and quality of life by relieving workers of monotonous and tedious labor.
To address these 3 points, we need to strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders, at national, regional and international levels.

・ Last year, Japan hosted the G7 ICT Ministers’ Meeting after an interval of about 20 years.
・ In response to that momentum, this April, “G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Conference” related to Information and communications was held for the first time at the G20.
・ At the conference, the new common goal was set, as “We will encourage the domestic deployment of connectivity to all people by 2025”.
・ We, the government of Japan, will continue to put forth our best possible efforts to achieve this goal and SDGs, together with all stakeholders.
Thank you for your attention.

Question from the moderator
In order to promote ICT innovation, what kind of activities do you do in partnership with multi-stakeholders?

Answer
・ In Japan, when we make new decision and activities such as IoT and AI, we always establish an dialogue platform including multi-stakeholders such as private sector, academia, citizen and government.
・ For example, now in Japan, in collaboration with related stakeholders, we are working on the standardization of IoT and 5G, development of Big Data analysis method and creating AI R&D Guideline.
・ This AI guideline is the unbinding soft law, so that related stakeholders like private sector, citizen and academia can develop and utilize AI without any concern.