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Talking points of Japanese Ambassador Akio Tanaka

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The 34th G8 Summit was held under the chairmanship of Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda between the 7th and 9th of July in Toyako, Hokkaido. This year's Summit began with an outreach session with African nations on the 7th of July. Then, the G8 Summit was convened on the 8th, followed by another outreach session with major economies, including Brazil, China, India, and South Africa, on the 9th.

After the discussion, the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders Declaration and three independent statements on Global Food Security, Counter-terrorism, and Zimbabwe were adopted.

At this year's Summit, the leaders discussed "Environment and Climate Change", "World Economy," including the sharp rise in oil and food prices, "Development and Africa", and "Political Issues," including terrorism, non-proliferation and regional issues such as North Korea and Iran.

Reflecting on this year's Summit, Japan, as the Chair of the Summit, would like to make a presentation on the issues which have a relevance to the OSCE.

“Environment and Climate Change” was one of the main issues in this Summit. In this area, the leaders of the G8 agreed that “we seek to share with all Parties to the UNFCCC the vision of, and together with them to consider and adopt in the UNFCCC negotiations, the goal of achieving at least 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050.” There were different views among the G8 on this issue. However, we have overcome the differences and reached common ground, which can contribute to giving impetus to the negotiation.

Also it is decided that “each of us will implement ambitious economy-wide mid-term goals in order to achieve absolute emissions reductions.” Moreover, there is recognition that “sectoral approaches are useful tools among others for achieving national emission reduction objective.” In order to extend support to developing countries, the leaders agreed that “we welcome and support the establishment of the Climate Investment Fund (CIF) including the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), administered by the World Bank.”

Regarding the sharp rise in oil prices, it was pointed out that “on the supply side, production and refining capacities should be increased in the short term. Joint efforts are also necessary to expand upstream and downstream investment in the medium term” and that “on the

demand side, it is important to make further efforts to improve energy efficiency as well as pursue energy diversification. “ Also, to promote energy security, the leaders “propose holding an energy forum to focus on energy efficiency and new technologies.”

Regarding the steep rise in global food prices, many measures were considered. For example, “we also call for countries with sufficient food stocks to make available a part of their surplus for countries in need, in time of significantly increasing prices and in a way not to distort trade.” Also, “a G8 Experts Group to monitor the implementation of our commitment” will be established.

With regard to Afghanistan, the leaders agreed “we renewed our commitment to support Afghanistan. We, at the same time, strongly encourage the Afghan Government to assume greater responsibility for security, governance, and reconstruction.” Also, the leaders “welcome the outcome of the International Conference in Paris in June and commit ourselves to working toward increasing aid effectiveness. We underscore our commitment to support presidential and parliamentary elections. We agreed to strengthen our assistance to the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan as an integral part of our strategy to combat terrorism. The leaders are committed “to further

strengthening the coordination of our efforts in the border region in cooperation with the respective countries, international organizations, and other donors. “

With regard to terrorism, the leaders issued the “Statement on Counter-Terrorism” and emphasized the crucial role of capacity-building in the countries which need assistance for tackling international terrorism.

Lastly, with regard to non proliferation, it was reconfirmed that “we are determined to make every effort to overcome the danger of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery means and to prevent acquisition of WMD by terrorists, by upholding, strengthening and universalizing all relevant multinational non-proliferation and disarmament instruments.” In this context, the leaders welcomed all nuclear disarmament efforts of G8 members and called on all nuclear weapon States to undertake reductions in a transparent way. With regard to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the leaders are committed to “the highest possible standards on nuclear non –proliferation, safeguards, safety and security (3S).”