

ESCAP/Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review

Item3d “Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of environmental conservation, climate action and resilience building”

Statement by Dr. Yumiko Tanaka Representative of Japan

64nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

In the aftermath of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of March 2011 we witnessed the problem that women were not allowed to participate fully in decision-making processes of disaster management and insufficient attention was paid to the differing needs of women and men.

When a disaster occurs, the challenges that exist under normal circumstances become even more pronounced, so it is of fundamental importance for smooth disaster management and recovery that measures devised from a gender-equal perspective are implemented before disasters occur. It is vital to take into account the different ways in which women and men are impacted by disasters and to employ a gender-equal perspective in pre-disaster preparation, management of evacuation centers, and support for those affected by disaster.

Japan recognizes that women play key roles in all phases of disaster management, including preventive measures, emergency response, and recovery and reconstruction. Our disaster management policy therefore comprises measures devised from a gender-equal perspective.

Japan is encouraging initiatives by the local governments that are familiar to residents. In addition to the Basic Plans for Gender Equality based on the Act, the Basic Disaster Management Plan based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act incorporated new content which is aimed primarily at giving due attention to the perspectives of both women and men when considering women’s participation in governmental policy decision-making and in actual disaster management, and when considering the differences in women’s and men’s needs in the context of evacuation center management.

Japan will continue improving its disaster management and recovery measures devised from a gender-equal perspective, taking into account international developments such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.