

ESCAP/Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review

Item3: Round Table (b) “Strengthening women’s participation and leadership in Asia and the Pacific”

Country Statement by Ms. OSAKI from the Japanese Delegation

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Japan is actively promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda as one of its priority policies and is working to strengthen the participation and leadership of women in Japan and abroad.

Japan is committed to leading efforts to promote international discussions on WPS. In 2025, which marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, we will co-chair the WPS Focal Points Network with Norway. The Capital-Level Meeting will be held in Tokyo from 4 to 6 February next year, and we will focus on the themes of further development of WPS Action Plans and integration of knowledge and perspectives on disaster risk reduction and disaster response into the WPS agenda.

Last year, Japan adopted its third WPS National Action Plan for the period 2023-2028. Japan’s plan takes a unique approach by applying the WPS framework in responding to natural disasters and climate change, and it promotes greater participation of women in disaster risk reduction. This is because Japan, like many countries in Asia and the Pacific, is prone to natural disasters, necessitating urgent and robust response.

On New Year's Day this year, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused more than 400 deaths, and damaged about 137,000 housing units. Under these circumstances, in order to ensure that women’s perspectives and needs were reflected in the establishment and operation of evacuation centers, officials from the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office visited and requested the local task force, which was set up at the Ishikawa Prefectural Office, to take measures according to the “Guidelines for disaster prevention and reconstruction from the perspective of gender equality.”

In addition, Japan has made efforts to promote women's participation in decision-making processes in disaster risk reduction and in disaster-hit areas. Measures include

compiling and disseminating good practices to increase the proportion of women on local disaster risk reduction councils, as well as know-how and case studies to encourage the development and active role of local women leaders in disaster risk reduction.

However, women's participation in local communities and politics in normal times is essential to implement these activities, and we will continue to address this challenge. Japan will continue to strengthen its efforts to promote and implement WPS both domestically and internationally, drawing on Japan's experience with natural disasters.

I thank you.