

(JICA's Position Paper on SDGs)

## **Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

### **[Three pillars of JICA's cooperation toward achieving the SDGs]**

1. JICA has been working for realizing “human security” and “quality growth” in order to contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community. The SDGs accelerate and promote this Japan's cooperation philosophy so that JICA will proactively contribute to achieving the SDGs through its leadership.
2. JICA will play a key role in achieving 10 goals of the 17 SDGs making use of Japan's own experience in socio-economic development of Japan and in development cooperation for the international community.  
[Ten goals: zero hunger, health, education, water/sanitation, energy, economic growth, industry/infrastructure, sustainable cities, climate actions, forests/biodiversity]
3. JICA will ensure the impact of cooperation on the SDGs by utilizing Japan's own knowledge, introducing innovations and collaborating with local and international partners in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

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## **1. JICA's guiding principles for the SDGs**

### **1.1 Toward realizing human security and quality growth**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by world leaders at the UN summit in September 2015, along with a set of 17 new global goals. Over the next fifteen years, with these new goals that universally apply to all, every country should make efforts to achieve the 17 goals and 169 targets, while ensuring that “no one is left behind.”

#### **[The SDGs can push forward to ensure the philosophy of Japan's Development Cooperation Charter]**

JICA will ensure human security and quality growth in order to achieve peace, stability and prosperity in the international community according to Japan's Development Cooperation Charter<sup>1</sup>. As a means to accelerate and promote this objective, JICA welcomes the adoption of the SDGs.

JICA has addressed “Inclusive and Dynamic Development” as its vision and “Promoting Human Security” as one of its missions. This vision and this mission are consistent with the SDGs' core vision —“people-centered” and “no one is left behind.”—and now become universal and common global goals through the SDGs.

Japan's Development Cooperation Charter prioritizes eradication of poverty through “quality growth” which is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. It should be noted that the SDGs also reflect inclusive (“no one is left behind”), sustainable (in harmony with the environment), and resilient development (able to withstand natural disasters, economic crises, and other threats), and thereby contribute to promote Japan's cooperation approach globally.

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<sup>1</sup> Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter was approved by the Cabinet in 1992 and revised in 2003, and has been the basis of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy. In 2015, the Government of Japan revised the ODA Charter and issued the new Development Cooperation Charter.

Table 1: Goals of the SDGs closely related to “inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience” (prepared by JICA)

Three elements	Definition (from the Charter)	Closely related goals of the SDGs
Inclusive	The fruits of growth are shared within society as a whole, with no one left behind.	1 (No poverty) 3 (Health) 4 (Education) 5 (Gender equality) 8 (Economic growth) 10 (Reduced inequalities) 16 (Peace/governance)
Sustainable	Harmonize with the environment, sustained socioeconomic growth, and address global warming over generations.	6 (Water/sanitation) 7 (Energy) 12 (SCP) 13 (Climate actions) (also related to resilient) 14 (Oceans) 15 (Forests/biodiversity)
Resilient	Able to withstand and recover from economic crises, natural disasters and other shocks.	2 (Zero hunger) 9 (Infrastructure/industry) (also related to inclusiveness and sustainability) 11 (Sustainable cities)

**[The SDGs’ development challenge and direction shared with the same view as the Japan’s Development Cooperation Charter]**

Japan and JICA put importance on ensuring sustainability in every aspect of development (though it is challenging) as reflected in the Development Cooperation Charter, and so do the SDGs. In transitioning from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the SDGs, sustainable development was a big issue discussed by world leaders, including Japan, especially from the environmental viewpoint. Given the scientific evidence about development impact on environmental burden addressed at Rio+20, it is urgently needed to take necessary measures for ensuring sustainable development from the viewpoint of the environment. The SDGs were drafted as a result of Rio+20 in consideration of the discussion on the needs of sustainable development.

There is concern over sustainable development that should be well-balanced from the viewpoint of not only the environment but also economy and society. Although there was a time when social problems were expected to be solved as a result of economic growth alone, it is now widely recognized that inequalities within countries, vulnerabilities, and various other social problems are not automatically solved by economic growth.

Regarding the SDGs, it is also predicted that if current trends continue, not a single goal will be met by 2030. Because of this, it is necessary to break away from “business as usual” and to create a “transformative change.”

**[Differences between the Development Cooperation Charter and the SDGs]**

On the other hand, there are some difference in focus and view between Japan's Development Cooperation Charter and the SDGs. The SDGs were established based on wider range of problems discussed by civil societies, private companies, universities, etc. at the global level as compared with those targeted by Japan's Development Cooperation Charter. Accordingly, Japan's development cooperation also requires more efforts to cooperate with a wider range of stakeholders.

The SDGs address the needs to make more efforts to tackle development issues such as poverty, environmental degradation, economic growth, etc. worldwide. Therefore, compared with the above-mentioned challenges related to sustainability, the SDGs do not clearly specify the securing of diversity with respect for each country's cultural and social values. Japan has experiences of supporting various development patterns respecting partner countries' different cultural and social values, which should be further strengthened from the viewpoint of peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

## **1.2 Effective use of Japan's and JICA's experience/knowledge and Challenges to the new fields**

JICA will use the experience and knowledge which both Japan and JICA have and can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. At the same time, JICA will strive to work with innovation and new approaches in order to achieve the SDGs.

### **[Contribute to the achievement of the SDGs using JICA's accumulated experience and knowledge]**

JICA will continue to promote "self-help" efforts and capacity development which Japan has emphasized so that partner countries can independently proceed with their development. In addition, JICA will further promote human security which leads to ensuring the development of leaving no one behind. At the same time, JICA will assist in the realization of quality growth that encompasses inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth.

JICA will maintain and expand the knowledge gained from Japan's own experience of problem-solving and development, and JICA's experience from international development cooperation. Japan has contributed to the remarkable economic growth in Asia as well as the achievement of the MDGs in the international community by implementing development cooperation, including the improvement of infrastructure. Therefore, JICA will proactively utilize the knowledge gained from such development experiences of Asia.

### **[Contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by combining various projects effectively and efficiently]**

All of the SDGs are interlinked and influenced by each other, requiring more comprehensive responses than ever before. JICA can respond to various development needs at different stages by identifying development issues through dialogues with local government entities and other stakeholders, finding the right direction toward solutions, and supporting host countries' efforts to realize the solutions. JICA also has various aid modalities, such as human resource development, technical cooperation, and financial cooperation, and through these, JICA can play an

effective role in achieving the SDGs.

In order to achieve the SDG goals (such as No poverty, Gender equality, Reduced inequalities, and Peace/governance), it will be necessary to make long-term efforts. Regarding project size, every year JICA has loaned out about 1 to 2 trillion yen and has given ODA loans of about 200 to 300 billion yen along with technical cooperation. All of these can contribute to achieving the SDGs. The size of these projects is large, compared with other development partners, agencies, and companies, but JICA's cooperation is stable. Therefore, JICA can play an effective role in the achievement of the SDGs.

**[Challenge new fields to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs]**

To accelerate achievement of the SDGs, it is necessary for all to apply innovations beyond traditional approaches.

To this end, JICA will make efforts to tackle new fields in which JICA has neither worked nor obtained know-how.

The SDGs include new goals, such as employment, sustainable production and consumption. Although it is hard to say that JICA has rich experience in these areas, JICA will make full use of any existing knowledge to be applied for making our comprehensive efforts.

## 2. JICA's scenario toward achieving the SDGs

Considering the above-described approach, JICA will engage in its assistance to each of the SDGs based on the following conceptual focus. At the same time, all the goals are important and intertwined so that JICA should optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of responding to the interlinked goals and then extend its comprehensive cooperation.

Ultimately, JICA aims to contribute to the achievement of goals such as “No poverty”, “Gender equality”, “Reduced inequalities”, and “Peace/governance”. “Good health and well-being” and “Quality education” should both be regarded as core areas for any development effort. JICA will play the key role in the achieving ten goals by using comparative advantage of its own experience eyeing on the importance of partnership at every stage.



Figure 1: JICA's scenario toward achieving the SDGs

### 2.1 Goals that JICA contributes through comprehensive response

“No poverty”, “Gender equality”, “Reduced inequalities”, and “Peace/governance” are such goals that are multiple development issues and should be achieved through comprehensive and long-term efforts. When these goals are achieved, sustainable growth will be also secured. In addition, these goals can be achieved as a result of a sequenced combination of interventions in various development issues. In the end, JICA considers these goals as ultimate goals and will contribute to their achievement by carrying out each effort either individually or together with other efforts according to the concept of human security.

## **2.2 Goals that JICA approaches as core development areas**

The goals which should be considered as basic requirements and preconditions for the achievement of the SDGs are Goal 3 (Health) and Goal 4 (Education). Health and education are not only important for people but also indispensable to proceed with any kind of development activities. JICA regards these two goals as core development areas and will provide necessary assistance to fulfill these conditions.

In addition, Goal 2 (Zero hunger) and Goal 6 (Water/sanitation) are often regarded as necessary in the early stages of development, too.

## **2.3 Goals that JICA plays the key role**

JICA will play the central role in achieving the following goals to make a large impact by the use of its accumulated knowledge and experience for effective and efficient cooperation: 2 (Zero hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 6 (Water/sanitation), 7 (Energy), 8 (Economic growth), 9 (Industry/infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable cities), 13 (Climate actions), and 15 (Forests/biodiversity).

In other words, it can be said that these goals are intermediate goals that will contribute toward achieving the goals specified in Article 2.1 with comprehensive efforts.

Because of its experience, Japan has a comparative advantage in terms of accumulated knowledge about the development issues related to these goals. For example, when it comes to frequent earthquakes and other disasters, Japan has already had advanced knowledge about necessary measures against them and taken its leadership in international discussions such as the Sendai Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which make it possible for JICA to contribute to achieving the goals related to climate change, sustainable cities, infrastructure, etc. Regarding Universal Health Coverage (UHC),<sup>2</sup> Japan has effective policy measures and rich experiences which are useful for other countries to solve various health related issues, including maternal and child health (MCH). JICA will proactively contribute in achieving these goals where JICA can utilize Japan's knowledge and experience.

On the other hand, depending on the specific country or regional situation, Goal 12 (SCP) or Goal 14 (Oceans), etc. may become important issues, too. If such issues are involved with knowledge that Japan has accumulated, such as the 3Rs, JICA may actively support them through its own project.

## **2.4 Goals that JICA considers necessary means of implementation**

Goal 17 (Partnerships) is an important means of implementation for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. JICA's stance on the goal will be described below in Article 3.

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<sup>2</sup> Universal Health Coverage: All people can receive services for appropriate health promotion, prevention, treatment, and functional recovery at a cost they can afford to pay.

## **2.5 Goals that JICA plays a catalytic role working with civil society and the private sector**

More participation from private companies and civil society are essential for the achievement of Goal 8 (Economic growth) and Goal 12 (SCP) while there are already many cases of private sector involvement. The private sector's proactive efforts may be the key to contribute toward achieving these goals so that JICA can support such efforts made by the private sector. Moreover, the activities of private companies and civil societies can contribute to goals other than these. In such cases, JICA will also endeavor to collaborate with the private sector and provide necessary support in an appropriate manner to contribute toward achieving such goals.



### **3. How JICA will work toward achieving the SDGs**

According to the guiding principle described above in Article 1, JICA will place importance on the following principles to tackle the goals listed above in Article 2. Those principles will be reflected in JICA's Mid-term Plan and institutionalized as JICA's mid- and long-term efforts to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

To achieve the SDGs, JICA will maximize and accelerate the outcome and impact of its development cooperation. For this purpose, JICA will play a catalytic role for cooperating with domestic and foreign development partners, mobilizing the private sector's technical and financial resources, developing innovations, and extending effective approaches at the global level.

#### **3.1 Securing and expanding the impact of cooperation**

##### **[Identify, formulate and implement such projects that secure the impact on the achievement of the SDGs]**

To contribute to achieving the SDGs, it is necessary for bilateral donors to strategically identify, formulate and implement technical and financial cooperation. JICA will produce outcomes and secure impacts by carrying out such cooperation as linked with the related goals, targets and indicators of the SDGs. It should be noted that JICA will strive to work at a suitable scale of cooperation (program level) for securing the outcomes and impacts on the SDGs.

##### **[Increase the impact through contributing to the achievement of multiple goals]**

All goals of the SDGs are interlinked and influenced by each other. Therefore, JICA will aim to produce and expand the development impact on not only directly targeted goals but also other related goals when implementing its cooperation as well as supporting the efforts made by private companies, civil societies, research institutes, etc. For instance, JICA's infrastructure support will not only target the achievement of Goal 9 (Industry/infrastructure) but also contribute to achieving other goals. In addition, many of the SDGs include a development scope categorized differently from the sectors which JICA has worked with for a long time. Since most goals should be solved by multisector support and/or comprehensive actions with several projects, JICA will further strengthen a multi-sector approach to contribute towards achieving the SDGs.

##### **[Expand the impact through introducing and prevailing innovation in the field of global development]**

JICA will aim to implement innovative cooperation and expand the impact of such cooperation by scaling it up to other countries and regions. JICA will also visualize the implementation process and know-how on produced results, and then widely share the know-how by formulating a network among development partners and/or a regional network in order to expand the development impact.

##### **[Consider transversal issue and minimize negative impact]**

JICA will make efforts to minimize any negative impact on gender equality, social and

economic inequality and peace-building with risk assessment and environmental and social considerations.

### **[Strengthen monitoring and evidence-based suggestion]**

To secure and expand the impact of cooperation, it is necessary to measure it accurately, which requires the understanding of baselines, data collection and monitoring. JICA will further strengthen monitoring and evidence-based suggestion for policymaking of host countries when implementing cooperation.

## **3.2 Reaching the specific needs of the people in the field**

### **[Promote comprehensive support for capacity development]**

For ensuring sustainable development and long-term action in 15 years, more efforts are needed to extend capacity development that ensures that individuals, organizations and societies to develop individual and collective abilities for problem solving more than ever before. JICA has already assisted in the implementation of projects with consideration of capacity development, and will continue to prioritize on the concept for international development under the SDGs.

### **[Develop strategy and implement cooperation based on close dialogue with host countries]**

Each country is required to set its own national goals and targets according to the local situation and development level of each region and/or community. For development partners, it is necessary to develop their assistance policies/strategies based on the host country's financial and human resources, etc. Therefore, maintaining close dialogues with host governments, JICA will further strengthen its abilities to identify the development needs in host countries in order to support the setting of national goals and targets as well as a mid- and long-term policy for the achievement of those goals and targets. Accordingly, JICA will consult with local stakeholders when drafting or revising its cooperation strategy, such as JICA's Country Analysis Paper (JCAP), and reconsidering its current cooperation programs in order to formulate and implement cooperation well aligned with each country's SDGs.

## **3.3 Strengthening cooperation with multi stakeholder**

### **[Strengthening cooperation with multi-stakeholder more than before according to the challenging goals and targets of the SDGs]**

No single donor can ensure the achievement of the challenging goals and targets of the SDGs only by its own efforts. Given this circumstance, JICA will call for a collective effort to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs working with every foreign and local stakeholder.

### **[Collaborating with multi-stakeholder in setting targets, and planning and implementing cooperation]**

When JICA carries out a project, it will place further importance on cooperation with its various partners. Cooperation with UNDP and other development partners is essential for setting the national SDG targets. To come up with innovative measures, it is also necessary to cooperate with domestic and foreign research institutes, etc. For any

development issues about which JICA has the comparative advantage of knowledge, JICA will lead to solve such issues collaborating with other development partners and developing countries.

**[Supporting the activities of private companies which will lead to the achievement of the SDGs]**

JICA has already been contributing to improving the business environment of many developing countries, which has promoted the advance of private companies to those countries' market. JICA has also been introducing such a cooperation mechanism that empowers private companies, civil societies, local governments, etc. From now on, JICA will continue and expand such collective actions in order to achieve the SDGs. In Japan, JICA is one of the few Japanese agencies that can extensively grasp developing countries' needs and has its own domestic offices as well as a network of human resources for development cooperation. By using such knowledge and network to its fullest, JICA will serve as a catalyst and provide necessary support to both private companies and local governments while they challenge and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

**[Increase attention to the SDGs from every Japan's stakeholder who can play a central role in its achievement]**

The SDGs have been discussed and developed by multi-stakeholders, including not only the governments of developing countries, emerging countries, and advanced countries-; and multilateral and bilateral donors, but also civil societies, NGOs, NPOs, private companies, local governments, educational and research institutes, etc. The SDGs cover a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues faced by each stakeholder, which makes the SDGs different from the MDGs. The efforts of stakeholders other than government agencies become the key to achieve some goals and targets of the SDGs.

On the other hand, the SDGs have not yet become widely known among people in general. Working with other related partners, JICA will thereby promote and encourage more citizens' group and people to get involved with any action contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, JICA will operationalize national policies to be adopted at the community and civil society levels through sending volunteers, etc. and secure inclusiveness which allows all people to participate in the development process.

For this purpose, JICA will use its various cooperation schemes, such as supporting of development education and dispatching of volunteers. JICA will also promote south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation with its development partners of emerging countries, etc.

**[Mobilizing more finance for the achievement of the SDGs]**

While the amount of funds necessary to achieve the SDGs is estimated to be 3.9 trillion dollars a year, the total amount of advanced countries' ODA is only 137.2 billion dollars (in 2014) (about 4% of the necessary amount described above). Therefore, it is clear that funds are absolutely insufficient. At the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, it was confirmed that, while ODA should continue to play an important role, it is a must to mobilize a wide range of financial resources, including developing countries' own domestic resource and private investment. International

public finance is now seen as a means of financial leverage for mobilizing diverse resources, including private capital, towards achieving the SDGs. In this situation, JICA will play a catalytic role to increase financing for development, too. -

#### **[Calling for innovations to drive and expand transformative change]**

To solve increasingly diverse and complex development issues, it is more and more important to introduce and expand science, technology and innovation developed by not only large companies but also venture, small- and mid-sized enterprises, etc. Therefore, JICA will enhance its ties with private companies, universities, research institutes, etc. to utilize innovations for transformative change.

### **3.4 Maximizing synergy effect with SDGs actions in Japan and overseas**

#### **[Applying SDGs as a global standard for Japan and the international community]**

With the MDGs, the poverty rate in the developing world has plummeted sharply from 47% in 1990 to 14% in 2015. As a result, more than one billion people have been brought out of poverty. On the other hand, global issues and common development challenges for both developed and developing countries have become more evident and urgent problems in the past 15 years. Both developed and developing nations have been facing the problems of rapidly growing urbanization, aging population, disaster prevention, etc. which should be solved by new technologies and innovations. These development issues are now on the same table for discussion on the SDGs.

#### **[Contributing to solving problems of Japan]**

Japan's Development Cooperation Charter states that Japan should further strengthen its role as an equal partner cooperating with developing countries. For JICA, it is necessary to mutually share problem awareness and learn effective solution rather than merely transfer Japan's knowledge to recipient countries while tackling with development challenges. JICA's volunteers have already been expected to revitalize local regions in Japan by using their overseas working experience. Many developing countries have been experiencing their rapid growth and introducing various solutions for their socio-economic development. By importing such solutions, it is expected that Japan can also benefit from them to solve its own domestic problems.

#### **[Generating public understanding and support for international cooperation]**

To develop human resources who are supposed to play a key role in realizing a sustainable society, Japan will continue to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) actively from now on. Through implementing citizens' partnership efforts such as volunteer program, support for educational development, etc., JICA will continuously make its effort to gain more public support for Japan's international cooperation and produce more global human resources for the future of our planet.

## Reference: Policy for each goal (position of each goal)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Goals that JICA contributes through comprehensive response	Goals that JICA approaches as core development areas	Goals that JICA plays the key role	Goals that JICA considers as necessary means of implementation	Goals that JICA plays a catalytic role working with civil society and the private sector
1 No poverty (No poverty)	●				
2 Zero hunger (Zero hunger)		○	●		
3 Good health and well-being (Health)		●	●		
4 Quality education (Education)		●	●		
5 Gender equality (Gender equality)	●				
6 Clean water and sanitation (Water/sanitation)		○	●		
7 Affordable and clean energy (Energy)			●		
8 Decent work and economic growth (Economic growth)			●		●
9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure (Infrastructure/industrialization)			●		
10 Reduced inequalities (Reduced inequalities)	●				
11 Sustainable cities and communities (Cities)			●		
12 Responsible consumption and production (SCP)			○		●
13 Climate action (Climate actions)			●		
14 Life below water (Oceans)			○		
15 Life on land (Forests/biodiversity)			●		
16 Peace, justice and strong institutions (Peace/governance)	●				
17 Partnerships for the goals (Partnerships)				●	

Note: ○ becomes ●, depending on the situation in each country or region.