

Development Cooperation Charter **DRAFT**

Japan's Contribution to the Sustainable Development of a Free and Open World -

I. Basic Concept

1. Purpose and Background

(1) The international community is at a historical turning point and facing a complex of crises. Climate change, infectious diseases, and other global issues are becoming more serious, and many developing countries are suffering from slowing economic growth and economic disparities inside and outside of the countries. At the same time, the free and open international order and multilateralism are being severely challenged by a changing balance of power and intensifying geopolitical competition, which has led to unilateral actions to change the status quo through the use of force, and the risk of a fractured international community is becoming increasingly serious. This is a further blow to many developing countries, creating a complex crisis that combines energy and food crises, inflation, debt crises, and humanitarian crises. The limits of the idea that globalization and interdependence can lead to peace and development in the international community are now increasingly evident.

(2) Dissatisfaction among developing countries caused by widening economic disparities and other factors is also creating new tensions in domestic and even interstate relations. While many developing countries are trying to avoid being drawn into geopolitical competition, some are sympathetic to moves that challenge the free and open international order. Thus, while various risks around the world have a direct negative impact on the world as a whole, building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international society under a free and open order is directly related to Japan's national interests.

(3) Today, more than ever, the international community is called upon to cooperate beyond differences in values and conflicts of interest in order to overcome complex crises. At a time when expectations for progress on development issues through international cooperation, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change, have been shaken, Japan, as a peaceful nation and a responsible major power, is in a position to lead such international cooperation based on the principle of "human security". Amidst the complex intertwining of conflict and cooperation in international relations, the role of development cooperation in Japan's diplomatic efforts is of exceptional importance.

(4) Development financing needs are enormous. While the emergence of emerging donor countries has provided a certain level of supplement to the demand for funds, there have been cases of assistance that has not led to independent and sustainable growth of developing countries, such as debt problems in some developing countries caused by loans that do not give sufficient consideration to debt sustainability. In order for developing countries to achieve self-sustained and sustainable growth, the international community as a whole needs to develop cooperative development cooperation based on transparent and fair rules. In addition, as the inflow of private-sector funds to developing countries has greatly surpassed official development assistance (ODA) and other forms of public funding, and as various actors such as the private sector, civil

society, and international organizations are playing important roles, it is becoming more important to work with these actors and mobilize new sources of funding.

(5) At this historical turning point, the role that development cooperation should play, as well as development issues and methods, are changing. Therefore, the Development Cooperation Charter, which was established in 2015, will be revised in light of the National Security Strategy formulated in December 2022, and development cooperation, one of the most important tools of Japan's diplomacy, will be utilized more effectively and strategically.

(6) This charter consists of the following elements. First, the objectives of Japan's development cooperation and the basic policy on which Japan's development cooperation stands are presented. Next, we will present the priority policies that Japan's development cooperation should address. Then, it presents the approach that Japan should take for effective and strategic implementation of development cooperation, the principles for ensuring adequacy, and the implementation system and foundation.

(7) For the purpose of this charter, development cooperation refers to "international cooperation activities by government and government-related organizations whose primary objective is the development of developing regions" and is treated as a broad concept that includes peacebuilding, governance, promotion of fundamental human rights, and humanitarian assistance. In addition, ODA and other public funds (OOF) and private funds (PF) should be strengthened to enhance synergies for development.

2. Purpose of Development Cooperation

(1) Since joining the Colombo Plan in 1954, Japan has consistently performed development cooperation in pursuit of peace and prosperity in the international community. Japan itself has recovered from World War II with support from the international community and achieved rapid economic growth. Japan has been working to help developing countries build a foundation for development through distinctive cooperation, utilizing the knowledge, experience, technology, and lessons learned in the process, as well as to solve global issues and create an international environment for smooth economic and social activities that transcend national borders. These efforts over the past 70 years have embodied Japan's role as a responsible major power, and have led to the strengthening of Japan's credibility and soft power.

(2) In addition, Japan's contribution to the stability and development of developing countries through development cooperation and its efforts to build a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community have led to the protection of the lives of Japanese citizens living as members of the international community and to the realization of prosperity.

(3) In today's era of complex crises, Japan cannot cope with various challenges alone. It is also Japan's responsibility as a responsible major power to cooperate with developing countries and work together to address development issues and global challenges that are becoming increasingly complex and serious. In this context, the building of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international society with developing countries under a free and open international order based on

the rule of law, and the persistent building of trusting relationships with more and more countries will, in the end, promote Japan's own national interests.

(4) Based on the above, the objectives of Japan's development cooperation are as follows

a. Based on equal partnership with developing countries, to address together the development challenges of developing countries and the resolution of global-scale issues common to all humankind, and to contribute more actively to the formation of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community under a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

b. At the same time, to contribute to the realization of Japan's national interests, such as securing the peace and security of Japan and its people and achieving further prosperity through economic growth, while maintaining and strengthening trust-based external relations by creating a favorable international environment for Japan and the world.

(5) In doing so, we should be keenly aware of the fact that development cooperation is funded by the public taxpayers' money and that development cooperation has had a positive effect in achieving the above objectives, and we should implement development cooperation, one of the most important tools of diplomacy, in a more strategic, effective and sustainable manner in order to create an international environment more favorable to the world and to Japan.

3. Basic Policy

Based on the philosophy and methods that Japan has developed over its long history of development cooperation, and in order to further develop them, Japan's development cooperation is guided by the following four basic policies.

(1) Contribution to peace and prosperity

Japan's development cooperation, which has contributed to solving development issues in developing countries and global issues common to all humankind through non-military cooperation, is one of the most appropriate international contributions for a peaceful nation that sincerely seeks peace and prosperity in the international community. Japan will continue to adhere to this commitment and actively contribute to ensuring peace and prosperity in the international community.

(2) "Human security" in the new era

a. The concept of human security, which is to build a nation and society so that each individual can live happily and with dignity, free from fear and deficiency, is fundamental to the way Japan should be, embodying the noble ideals and principles of human nature, and is also in line with values such as freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. It is also connected to the values of freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. Japan will continue to position human security as the guiding principle underlying all of its development cooperation.

b. In order to realize human security in the new era, it remains important to build strong and resilient nations and societies through "investment in people" (i.e., protection and empowerment of

individuals) and people-centered development. In addition, in times of multiple crises, issues are becoming increasingly complex and intertwined, and it is essential that diverse actors work together in solidarity to achieve common goals. Japan will make the protection and empowerment of individuals and the solidarity of various actors the pillars of "human security" in the new era, and will conduct development cooperation with a focus on self initiative of individual.

(3) Co-creation of social value through dialogue and collaboration with developing countries

a. Aiming at self-reliant development through support for the self-help efforts of developing countries, Japan has a good tradition of development cooperation in the spirit of persistently building up together what suits the other country through dialogue and collaboration based on a field-oriented approach, and in the process building a two-way relationship in which both sides learn from each other on equal terms.

b. In the current era of complex crises, with a mountain of new issues for which no clear solutions have been found, it is necessary to create new solutions together through dialogue and collaboration, with the partner country at the core, involving a variety of actors, each bringing their strengths under an equal partnership. Japan aims to create new value through such "co-creation," drawing on its tradition of supporting self-help efforts, dialogue, and collaboration.

c. In addition, by passing the new solutions and social values created in this way on to Japan, and by fostering the next generation of human resources in Japan and developing countries through these efforts, we aim to solve the economic and social problems that Japan itself faces, and to achieve economic growth.

(4) Leading dissemination and implementation of international rule and policy based on inclusiveness, transparency and fairness

Japan's development cooperation consistently emphasizes inclusiveness, transparency, and fairness. In order to address complex issues in cooperation with various actors, it is essential to have rules and guidelines that serve as a common foundation for all parties involved in development cooperation. In order to solve issues in a coordinated manner as the international community, Japan will lead the dissemination and implementation of rules and guidelines for development cooperation based on inclusiveness, transparency, and fairness, and will develop cooperation based on such rules and guidelines. In this way, we will realize cooperation that does not involve debt traps or economic coercion, and that does not undermine the independence and sustainability of developing countries.

II. Priority Policies

Japan's development cooperation will address the following priority policies. In order to implement these priority policies effectively, strategically, and flexibly, while paying attention to their interrelationships, Japan will establish regional and country-specific development cooperation policies.

1. Poverty Eradication through "High Quality Growth" in the New Era

(1) Based on the concept that "nation-building is people-building," Japan has been striving to achieve economic growth by developing human resources, high quality infrastructure, legal systems, etc., and by accelerating growth in the private sector. In doing so, Japan has aspired to achieve one of the most fundamental development challenges, namely, poverty eradication, through "high quality growth". "High-quality growth" refers to growth that is "inclusive," in which the fruits of growth are distributed throughout society and no one is left behind; "sustainable," in which the economy, society, and environment are in harmony across generations; and "resilient," in that it is resistant and resilient to various shocks, including natural disasters and economic crises.

(2) In times of multiple crises, "high quality growth" is becoming increasingly important, as shown below.

a. Inclusion: Infectious diseases, conflicts, and large-scale disasters have led to an increase in the number of poor people in the world, as well as widening disparities and worsening humanitarian situations in some countries. This has led to an increasing demand for support towards vulnerable groups such as refugees, displaced persons, women, and minorities.

b. Sustainability: Climate change countermeasures, the global environment including oceans and biodiversity, and energy and food supply stability are becoming more and more important issues in terms of sustainability. At the same time, the deterioration of debt sustainability due to the increase in external debt and dependence on specific countries has become a more serious issue.

c. Resilience: It has become clear that weak supply chains can have a negative impact on various sectors, such as healthcare, food prices, and industrial production. It is therefore necessary to further improve the resilience of the domestic economy by enhancing the resilience of the free and open international order and by diversifying the economy. Resilience is also needed against natural disasters, which are becoming increasingly severe.

(3) Based on the above, Japan will work for "high quality growth" and poverty eradication through both cooperation to secure the basis and driving force for economic growth, and cooperation for people-centered development that supports people's basic livelihoods. In doing so, we will particularly strengthen our efforts in the following areas, taking into account the changing development challenges in times of complex crises.

a. Strengthening the autonomy and resilience of economies and societies, including food and energy security: In order to strengthen the autonomy and resilience of economies and societies in developing countries, we will promote cooperation for strengthening and diversifying supply chains, economic diversification, sustainable supply of resources, fostering and protecting technology, improving investment environment, increasing food production, and improving nutrition. In particular, the strengthening and diversification of supply chains, sustainable development of key mineral resources, and stable supply and security of food are important issues not only for the sustainable growth of developing countries, but also for Japan. We will therefore actively support the diversification of supply sources, human resource development, legal system development, and peripheral infrastructure development in these areas.

b. Digital technology: Digital transformation (DX) is directly related to all development issues and is the key to achieving "high quality growth". In addition to promoting reliable and free data distribution, efforts will be made to solve issues through the promotion of data utilization and social implementation of digital technologies. At the same time, we will address the digital divide and vulnerabilities (cyber security) caused by the development of digital technology.

c. High-quality infrastructure: Developing countries continue to have enormous demand for infrastructure. Japan has strengths in maritime and aviation safety management, disaster prevention and resilience technologies, urban development that adapts to climate change and the environment, safe and secure transportation systems, and water supply. To leverage these strengths to solve social issues in partner countries, we will combine infrastructure development with soft aspects of cooperation, such as the development of institutional plans, involvement in operation and maintenance, and connectivity through human resource development. In doing so, we will promote the development of "high-quality infrastructure" that is transparent, open, economical in terms of life cycle costs, and sustainable in terms of debt obligations.

2. Realizing a peaceful, secure, and stable society; maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law

(1) Achieving peaceful, secure, and stable societies in developing countries and maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law are preconditions for achieving "high quality growth" in developing countries.

(2) In recent years, however, developing countries' peaceful, secure, and stable societies have been threatened by renewed peace and stability problems associated with geopolitical tensions, moves against democratization and the protection of human rights, piracy and terrorism, and other factors. These threats can render years of development efforts irrelevant in an instant. In order to realize "human security," Japan will comprehensively address the various causes of conflict and instability, and will provide seamless support for peacebuilding, paying attention to the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus. In doing so, Japan will also cooperate with international peace cooperation activities such as UN peacekeeping operations (PKO), as appropriate. In addition, Japan will provide assistance to ensure social security and stability, including capacity building of law enforcement agencies, such as coast guards, and ensuring maritime security, including counter-terrorism and anti-piracy measures. Furthermore, Japan will provide support for the development of legal systems, including drafting of laws and regulations, institutional development, and human resource development, in order to establish the rule of law, realize good governance, promote and entrench democratization, and respect fundamental human rights in each country. Japan will also strengthen its efforts to contribute to the dissemination and implementation of transparent and fair rules for development finance. Furthermore, in the event of emergencies such as natural disasters, prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance, including international emergency aid, will be provided.

(3) In addition, efforts to make a free and open international order based on the rule of law, and to make multilateralism the common ground of the international community, are becoming increasingly important in order to prevent the division of the international community, to create a

larger market, and to share the fruits of economic development among many countries. In this regard, we will work to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law, especially under the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” vision, and cooperate with developing countries to enable them to proactively engage in and enjoy the fruits of this order.

3. Leading international efforts to address increasingly complex and serious global issues

(1) Infectious diseases, climate change, and other challenges that transcend national borders and are shared by all humankind tend to have a significant impact on the international community as a whole, causing harm to many people, especially those in vulnerable developing countries, the poor, and other vulnerable groups. The SDGs, which set out challenges and targets to be met by the international community as a whole by 2030, are experiencing delays in progress due to multiple crises.

(2) In light of the above, Japan will continue to cooperate with vulnerable countries and regions by organically linking both bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. We will also drive international cooperation and strengthen comprehensive efforts to solve global issues by accelerating efforts to achieve the SDGs. This will be based on the principle of "human security", which includes the following:

a. **Climate Change and Environment:** Climate change is a threat to sustainable development in all countries of the world. In order to align Japan's development cooperation with the goals of the Paris Agreement and to improve the ability of developing countries to cope with climate change, Japan will promote support for both mitigation measures (e.g., reduction and absorption of greenhouse gases) and adaptation measures (e.g., avoidance and reduction of damage caused by climate change), thereby contributing to both addressing the development challenges of developing countries and promoting climate change measures. To this end, we will further promote the mobilization of private-sector funds and cooperation with international organizations to expand the scale of international assistance. Recognizing that the preservation of the global environment is our responsibility for the future of the earth, we will strengthen our efforts to protect the natural environment, including the marine environment, forests, and water resources, by mainstreaming biodiversity, taking measures against plastic pollution, etc.

b. **Health:** Based on the Global Health Strategy, we will contribute to the establishment of a global health architecture, strengthen prevention, preparedness, and response to future public health crises, and promote more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC (Universal Health Coverage) through strengthening health systems in developing countries, including health human resource development. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) will be promoted through strengthening health systems in developing countries, including the development of human resources in the health sector.

c. **Disaster Risk Reduction:** Disaster Risk Reduction efforts are indispensable for poverty eradication and sustainable development. In the midst of concerns about the frequency and severity of disasters due to climate change, cooperation will be promoted based on the Sendai Framework for

Disaster Reduction and by taking advantage of Japan's expertise in disaster prevention and disaster mitigation.

d. Education: Education is extremely important as it is considered as "investment in people", which is essential for promoting "human security.". We will continue to strongly promote education, taking into account the perspectives of quality education for all, women's empowerment, and securing educational opportunities in conflict situations.

(3) Addressing global issues requires the cooperation of the international community as a whole, including developed countries, emerging countries, and developing countries. In this context, setting challenges and rules in the international arena is particularly important. We will contribute more actively to rule-making in areas such as international health and the environment, and lead discussions on strengthening domestic resource mobilization, expanding the donor base, reforming international development finance institutions, and considering new fund mobilization methods. In addition, we will actively contribute to international discussions on post-2030 development goals, in cooperation with other countries.

III. Implementation

1. Three evolving approaches for effective and strategic development cooperation

In order to maximize effectiveness in realizing the aforementioned objectives and promoting priority policies, the Development Cooperation will take the following measures.

(1) Solidarity to realize co-creation

In an era of complex and intertwined development issues for which no one has a clear solution, co-creation is required, in which various actors bring their strengths together and work together to create solutions through dialogue and collaboration under a common goal. Japan's development cooperation aims to set development issues by utilizing Japan's experience, knowledge, and lessons learned, and to form and utilize development platforms that involve various actors, with developing countries at the core, and to strongly support the solutions created there through the mobilization of diverse resources, including financial resources. In addition, we will promote the expansion of a wide range of ODA-related funding sources. In this regard, we will strengthen solidarity with the following partners.

a. Private sector

The efforts of the private sector are playing an increasingly important role in solving development issues and achieving sustainable growth in developing countries. With the adoption of the SDGs, economic, environmental, and social issues have been integrated, and corporate value can be linked to SDG initiatives. As a result, many private-sector companies and investors have become more proactive in addressing development issues and promoting the finance to realize the sustainable society (sustainable finance). In response, the importance of private finance for developing countries has been increasing, and the use of private finance with development benefits, such as impact investment and ESG investment, has become an international trend. In light of these trends, Japan will continue to promote conventional public-private partnerships, as well as development

cooperation to involve the private sector, including start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), in development platforms and link them to the development issues of developing countries. Specifically, in order to promote impact investment, ESG investment, blended finance, etc., we will build economic infrastructure in developing countries, provide training and study abroad programs for private-sector human resources, support the development of legal systems, present development models, and strategically utilize public funds, including overseas investments and loans.

b. Public financial institution

In light of the growing importance of effectively combining both ODA and OOF for the development of developing countries, we will coordinate the institutions dealing with ODA funds and OOF for developing countries such as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN), Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services Inc. (JICT) and Japan Organization for Metals and Energy (JOGMEC), etc. and promote development cooperation in cooperation with private sector funds, while organically combining various schemes of the government and government-related organizations to enhance synergy effects.

c. Like-minded countries

We will evolve the sharing and cooperation of knowledge and resources with countries that share the same objectives and principles of development cooperation, regardless of whether they are developed or developing countries. In addition, we will deepen cooperation for the implementation and dissemination of rules and standards for development cooperation, and for the maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order based on the rule of law. We will promote multilayered multilateral cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation initiatives, to provide developing countries with a variety of options.

d. International organization and regional organization

International organizations have strengths in expertise, neutrality, and access to conflict areas, etc., while regional organizations have strengths in resolving issues that are appropriate to the region and in broad-based initiatives. In the field of bilateral cooperation, by strengthening cooperation with international and regional organizations, we aim to cooperate in areas and regions that are difficult to access, to create synergies by combining bilateral cooperation, and to utilize their specialized knowledge and experience. In addition, taking into account that international organizations play an important role in setting issues and creating international norms, Japan will deepen cooperation through contributions based on its experience and knowledge, and strengthen its involvement in decision-making in international organizations by making effective contributions to international organizations and increasing the number of Japanese staff, including senior officials. With regard to international development finance institutions, we will promote discussions on their reform and strengthen cooperation, including co-financing, taking into account the importance of their financial resources and the role they play in creating international norms.

e. Civil society

Civil society, including NGOs, is expanding its presence in development cooperation, including

humanitarian assistance, in various parts of the world through prompt cooperation that is attuned to local needs. Japan will position civil society as our strategic partner in development cooperation, and will strive to provide more effective cooperation by utilizing the expertise of civil society to meet the needs of populations that are difficult to reach through bilateral assistance between governments. We will support the capacity building of Japan's civil society and further strengthen development cooperation implemented through Japan's civil society.

f. Local government

The experience and know-how of local governments, which are the main providers of basic administrative services, can be applied to developing countries. Therefore, efforts should be made to promote and support the participation of local governments in development cooperation projects. At the same time, while making maximum use of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) domestic offices and the experiences of JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, we will also link the human resources and knowledge fostered through development cooperation to the solution of Japan's problems, such as regional development.

g. University and research institution

In addition to seeking new solutions to development issues in developing countries by promoting cooperation with universities and research institutions, we will promote the international brain circulation through exchanges and joint research between students and researchers from developing countries and Japan, improve the scientific and technological capabilities of both countries, and disseminate Japan's development experience, such as modernization and economic development, etc.

h. Pro-Japanese, Japanophile and people of Japanese descent

The human resources of the "pro-Japanese" and "Japanophile" around the world, who have been nurtured through Japan's meticulous human resource development efforts, are important human assets who share Japanese culture and values. In addition, people of Japanese descent communities abroad form the foundation of strong ties with Japan, and contribute widely to the local communities of each country. By utilizing these assets, we will further strengthen the multilayered network of human resources based on trust.

(2) Further strengthening of strategic nature

In order to further strengthen the strategic nature of Japan's development cooperation, it is important to focus on policy formulation in light of the aforementioned objectives and priority policies, strengthen consistency between policy and implementation, and develop active cooperation that leverages Japan's strengths, while utilizing limited resources. From this perspective, the following efforts will be made.

a. Strengthening consistency of policy and implementation

(a) In formulating policy, we must fully recognize that development cooperation is one of the most important tools of foreign policy, which requires strategic and flexible responses in light of ever-changing international circumstances, and we must give it the necessary emphasis in light of the aforementioned objectives and priority policy promotion.

(b) In implementing ODA, the government and implementing agencies will work together to maximize the development impact by effectively utilizing the three ODA schemes (grant aid, technical cooperation, and loan aid (yen loans and overseas investment and loans)), as well as by combining bilateral cooperation and cooperation through international organizations and NGOs in an optimal manner through solidarity with various actors on a development platform. In addition, follow-up will be conducted to ensure that each project is widely recognized by the government and public of the partner country over a long period of time and is properly evaluated after the completion of the project.

(c) In evaluation and improvement, in addition to maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation, and taking into account the importance of fulfilling accountability to the public, the results and effects (outcomes) of development cooperation should be set at the policy and project levels and evaluated appropriately using quantitative data too, while paying attention to the need for flexible and timely response to changing international circumstances. The evaluation results will be appropriately fed back to the policy-making process and project implementation to improve the quality of the projects.

(d) Strategic coherence should be ensured in the policy planning, implementation, evaluation, and improvement (PDCA) cycle for the above development cooperation.

b. Cooperation based on Japan's strengths

(a) The human resources, knowledge, high-quality technical capabilities, and institutions that Japan has developed through its democratic economic development while respecting its own traditions are assets for development cooperation, and we will conduct development cooperation utilizing these strengths.

(b) Japan has consistently emphasized "investment in people" through the acceptance of foreign students and trainees and the dispatch of experts to convey its technologies and know-how, and has made efforts to develop human resources with attention to detail, for which developing countries have high expectations. In order to be a "country of choice" for study and training in developing countries, we will continue to enhance our study and training programs, including those for private sector personnel as well as government officials, to systematically acquire Japanese experience useful for developing countries and to develop human resources in developing countries who can become local partners of Japanese companies. We will positively learn from each other, create new value, and give back to their respective economies and societies through collaboration between private-sector human resources in developing countries and Japanese companies, which is followed by the new generation prosperity.

(c) Japan's advanced technological capabilities and science and technology remain a great strength. On the other hand, as the technologies of emerging and developing countries develop and their needs diversify, it is more important to implement value-added development cooperation that combines high-quality hardware cooperation, such as the provision of materials and equipment and construction of facilities, with software cooperation, including involvement in operation and maintenance, institution building, and human resource development. In light of this, it is becoming more important to implement value-added development cooperation that combines involvement in operation and maintenance, and soft cooperation, including institutional development and human resource development. Based on this, while utilizing new social values and solutions generated through co-creation, we will organically combine various

schemes such as ODA and OOF to enhance synergies, create an attractive support menu that leverages Japan's strengths, and strengthen offer-type cooperation by actively presenting proposals from Japanese side to partner countries.

(d) Furthermore, JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, who live and think together, are a bridge between Japan and developing countries at the grassroots level, and we will continue to promote them as a form of cooperation that is unique to Japan.

(3) Detailed System Design Consistent with Objective

Based on the above, we will work tirelessly to design a detailed system that includes the following.

a. Flexible and efficient cooperation in accordance with development needs

(a) The above-mentioned sustainable finance efforts by the private sector will be encouraged, and the system will be constantly improved so that the cooperation necessary for co-creation can be carried out effectively and efficiently in both financial and technical cooperation, including the mobilization of private-sector funds for development.

(b) Necessary cooperation, including grant aid and technical cooperation, in accordance with the actual development needs and bearing capacity of each country will be utilized strategically towards countries with relatively high income levels with per capita gross national income above a certain level including countries falling into the so-called "middle-income country trap" and countries with special vulnerabilities such as small island developing states.

(c) In emergency humanitarian assistance, even in situations where intergovernmental assistance is difficult, decision-making should be expedited and a wide range of non-governmental partners should be utilized to ensure that assistance reaches those most in need in a timely and reliable manner. In addition, taking into account international trends, we will incorporate high-quality and flexible contributions where necessary, and where appropriate, we will promote efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiency by such as cash transfers etc. through international organizations and NGOs. Furthermore, JICA will improve its methods of providing emergency humanitarian assistance, including the application of the International Emergency Relief Teams Act, so that Japan can provide flexible and visible assistance in terms of human, material, and financial resources. We will continue to adopt effective and efficient methods based on international trends.

b. Prompt implementation of cooperation in accordance with the needs of the times

In light of the need for cooperation to respond to the rapidly changing international situation and to cooperate with fast-moving private investments, we will improve the system to enable prompt decision-making and implementation of cooperation as necessary, while ensuring proper execution.

2. Principles on Ensuring the Appropriateness of Development Cooperation

From the perspective of ensuring the appropriateness of development cooperation, development cooperation should be implemented based on a comprehensive assessment of the partner country's development needs, economic and social conditions, and bilateral relations, while always taking into account the following principles.

(1) Situation of promoting consolidation of democratization, rule of law and security of fundamental

human rights

From the perspective of promoting the consolidation of democratization, the rule of law, and respect for fundamental human rights in developing countries, due attention should be paid to the situation surrounding democratization, the rule of law, and the guarantee of fundamental human rights in the countries concerned.

(2) Avoidance of use for military purposes and contribution to international conflicts

In implementing development cooperation, use for military purposes and contribution to international conflicts should be avoided. When development cooperation for non-military purposes such as civilian purposes or disaster relief involves the military forces of the counterpart country or persons with military status, the practical significance of such cooperation should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(3) Military expenditure, development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, and import/export of weapons

In order to maintain and strengthen international peace and stability by preventing the proliferation of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and from the perspective that developing countries should allocate their domestic resources appropriately and preferentially for their own economic and social development, the committee will pay close attention to trends in military expenditures, development and production of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, and import and export of weapons in the countries concerned.

(4) Influence on environment and climate change associated with development

In order to balance the environment and development, and to achieve sustainable development, including the promotion of decarbonization, due attention should be paid to the various environmental impacts associated with development and climate change measures.

(5) Debt sustainability

In order to make the economic and social development of developing countries sustainable in the medium and long term, development cooperation shall be provided with due consideration to the sustainability of the debt of the countries concerned and to strengthen it.

(6) Promotion of inclusive societies, including gender mainstreaming and ensuring fairness

Gender mainstreaming will be promoted at all stages of development cooperation, and development cooperation will be carried out with due consideration to ensure fairness in order to promote diverse and inclusive societies where all people can benefit from development, including children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, ethnic minorities and indigenous people, and other socially vulnerable groups.

(7) Prevention of corruption

In the implementation of development cooperation, it is necessary to prevent corruption. While taking measures to contribute to the establishment of a legal compliance system in the contracting company, we will cooperate with the counterpart country and together foster an environment to prevent corruption, including strengthening governance in the counterpart country. From this

perspective, we will ensure proper procedures and transparency in the implementation process.

(8) Ensuring safety of personnel involved

From the perspective of ensuring the safety of personnel involved in development cooperation, we will pay sufficient attention to strengthening safety management capabilities, collecting information on security, implementing safety measures, and ensuring the safety of related personnel during construction work. In particular, when cooperating in areas where political and security conditions are unstable, such as in peacebuilding, we will take all possible measures to ensure the safety of the people involved by implementing sufficient safety measures and systems on a regular basis, and by evacuating the people involved promptly and conducting emergency support activities at the site in the event of a crisis.

3. Strengthen System and Foundation of Implementation

Keeping in mind the international target of 0.7% of ODA as a percentage of gross national income (GNI), and taking into account Japan's extremely severe fiscal situation, we will expand ODA in various ways based on 1. and 2. above and make necessary efforts to strengthen the implementation foundation of development cooperation. At the same time, as the division of roles between the public and private sectors in development cooperation is changing, we will pursue more effective development cooperation with various partners by promoting the mobilization of private-sector funds, including strengthening cooperation with the private sector and government agencies handling OOF.

(1) In promoting development cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), which is responsible for coordinating the planning and formulation of development cooperation policies, will play a central role in strengthening cooperation among relevant ministries and agencies. In addition, the government, including MOFA, will present policies, and JICA and other implementing agencies will implement projects in line with those policies, thereby further strengthening the consistency between policy and implementation. In particular, collaboration between diplomatic missions abroad and JICA country offices will be promoted. Further efforts will be made to improve the capacity, systems, and institutions of both the government and implementing agencies.

(2) Human and intellectual foundation

a. Continue to strengthen the personnel structure of the government and implementing agencies involved in development cooperation. In particular, we will collaborate with industry, government, and academia to secure and develop human resources with advanced knowledge in new development issues such as DX, Green Transformation (GX), public finance, and finance for mobilizing private-sector funds. In these areas, international brain circulation with developing countries and feedback of cooperation results to Japan will also be promoted. In addition to MOFA and JICA, we will promote the development of international human resources with expertise in consultants, researchers, universities, students, private companies, civil society, etc., and strive to expand opportunities and develop systems and structures for such human resources to play an active role in Japan and abroad.

b. In addition, in order to lead international discussions such as rule-making on development

cooperation, Japan will promote policy research and networking between Japan and partners such as universities and research institutes in Japan and abroad, and strengthen the intellectual foundation.

(3) Social infrastructure (including information disclosure, overseas public relations and development education)

a. Public understanding and support are indispensable for the implementation of development cooperation, and JICA's domestic offices should be utilized in cooperation with local governments and JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to explain the meaning and results of development cooperation and its evaluation by the international community in an easy-to-understand and detailed manner to a wide range of citizens. At the same time, information on the implementation status and evaluation of development cooperation should be disclosed to the public in a timely manner and with sufficient transparency. In addition, we will actively promote Japan's development cooperation abroad to increase the recognition and understanding of Japan's development cooperation and its achievements in the international community, including developing countries.

b. Promote development education through school education and social education. People's daily lives and economic activities are based on interdependence with the international community, including developing countries. Through development education, we will nurture the ability of people of all ages to think and act on their initiative on various development issues.

4. Report on the progress of implementation of the Development Cooperation Charter
The implementation status of the charter will be clarified in the "White Paper on Development Cooperation," which is reported annually to the Cabinet Meeting.