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DEVELOPMENT**

**CSD Intersessional Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero
Waste**

Tokyo, Japan, 16 February 2011

Minister Ryo Matsumoto,
Vice Chair Abdelghani Merabet,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I send warmest greetings to all participants.

I had hoped to attend the meeting personally. I have been unfortunately detained by a last-minute conflict, but with an event on preparations for Rio+20 whose subject would be of interest to you.

I wish to extend my deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting this important intersessional event of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development.

Many of the participants in this meeting will recall, 40 years ago, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was convened in Stockholm precisely because of the threat to human and ecological health from pollution and waste.

Since then, we have undertaken many corrective measures, nationally as well as globally, but the threat has not abated.

It continues to grow, in parallel with growth in consumption, population, and urbanization.

Already, more people live in urban than rural areas. By 2050, the urban population will be three times the rural population, and almost all urban growth will occur in the developing world.

We need a coherent vision. We can use the theme of the Shanghai Expo, the Harmonious City, or the slogan of the Urban Congress, Inclusive City.

But we need a vision for managing urbanization. As all city managers know, one of the highest priorities in this vision is waste management.

Japan is a leader in achieving this vision. Every list of best managed cities includes Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto, Nagoya, Kobe, and Yokohama.

Tokyo is therefore an ideal place for this meeting to take place.

Japan has given us the 3R concept - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Japan has an outstanding training institution on this theme, namely, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development.

The collaboration last year between the Centre and the Government of Japan was instrumental in placing the 3R concept formally in the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Now we need your help in charting the next steps...the formal decisions at the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Has the time come to adopt a global goal of zero waste?

Should there be interim targets, like the MDGs?

How should the goal be pursued?

Should there be formal, registered partnership for implementation?

How should this be linked with the agenda of sustainable consumption and production?

Your deliberations here will be a critical contribution to the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Finally, we have to make sure that the United Nations Centre for Regional Development has the resources and the capacity to assist developing countries in implementing these decisions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In this regard, Rio+20 will prove to be a major milestone on the road to sustainable development. The urgent challenge is to move sustainable development into the mainstream of decision-making, and to empower all stakeholders to take action.

In 1992 the Rio Summit energized stakeholders and brought new stakeholders into the tent. We need to revive the spirit of Rio.

We need to show that the theme of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is relevant not only for waste management, but also for urban development, job creation, and investment.

We need an institutional framework that can empower urban managers, foster partnerships and support coordination among UN system agencies.

This is an ambitious agenda, but I am sure you will not settle for anything less.

I wish you every success and look forward to the outcomes of your deliberations.

Thank you.
