

Remarks by Mr. MARUYAMA Norio, Ambassador of Japan,  
On the occasion of the UNDP South Africa  
High-Level Programme Board Meeting 2021  
(November 17, 2021)

Dr. Ayodele Odusola, UNDP Resident Representative  
Mr. Dondo Mogajane, Director General, National Treasury,  
Distinguished board members convening here today,

It is my honour to take part in the board meeting, which is timely to be held when South Africa is facing a critical moment to ponder and choose its right path to the future.

I would like to congratulate the UNDP for bringing its partners, national and international, to review the implementation of its programme in South Africa. This demonstrates that the UNDP is an organization that values partnership and national ownership.

UNDP South Africa has certainly left meaningful footprints in the growth of the country, and it will continue to have a crucial impact to decide the trajectory of South Africa's development. Toward 2025 and beyond, it is important for its major stakeholders to convene, take stock, and agree on the next steps in one voice, so that we can create synergy in an efficient manner, with limited resources.

Japan enjoys a strong and long-standing partnership with the UNDP, especially within the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD), a global discussion forum on African development.

I would like to remind that the UNDP is a co-organizer of TICAD. In partnership with other partners, the TICAD process has over the past nearly 30 years contributed to mainstreaming human security and human centered approaches to development.

I recognize that given its strong presence in South Africa and its extensive networks in national and local government, the contribution of the UNDP will be crucial for further promoting the partnership between South Africa and Japan.

Japan highly appreciates the UNDP's implementation of its projects funded by the government of Japan in various fields, for many years.

Currently, the government of Japan, in partnership with the UNDP, is supporting the government of South Africa through a number of initiatives which include:

- COVID-19 response, focusing on three main areas of support:
  - (a) Health systems strengthening;
  - (b) Inclusive and integrated crisis management response; and

(c) Addressing the Economic Impact of COVID-19 through support to SMMEs and the informal sector.

- The TVET project which involves automotive training and re-skilling in the post-COVID economic recovery, for vulnerable youth and women in TVET colleges.

And early in 2021, the UNDP facilitated business to business engagement between the business communities in South Africa and Japan to promote foreign investment and start-ups in South Africa.

We also work on peace and stability in Africa. With Japanese funding and in collaboration with the Africa Forum, UNDP South Africa are partnering to implement activities aimed at strengthening national institutions and enhancing governance in order to prevent conflict, as well as strengthening good governance.

To close my remarks, I would like to express that the government of Japan will continue our partnership with the UNDP in South Africa to contribute towards the development of South Africa.

We have common goals: The achievement of the National Development Plan (NDP), the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Thank you.