

TAJIKISTAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2012
Dushanbe, December 11, 2012

SPEAKING POINTS

Mr. Kiyoshi Kodera, Vice President,
Japan International Cooperation Agency

Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Ministers, Ambassadors, Participants

The President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has asked me to convey to you, Mr. President, his personal greetings and best wishes for a successful meeting of the National Development Council and Development Forum. I am grateful for this opportunity to make these brief introductory remarks on behalf of the Development Coordination Council (DCC).

The timing of this Development Forum is appropriate for two reasons. *First*, today, December 11, in Geneva, the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) endorsed Tajikistan's accession to the WTO. Tajikistan's membership of the WTO marks a very significant step in terms of broadening and deepening the country's economic and trade relations with the international development community and, in particular, towards establishing a more transparent and predictable trade and foreign investment climate—both goals that DCC members support. *Second*, this Development Forum provides us an opportunity together to assess the outcomes of the just-completed 3rd Poverty Reduction Strategy (2010-12) and, especially, to consider the key challenges and priorities that lie ahead for the new Living Standards Improvement Strategy (2013-15), the last three years of Tajikistan's National Development Strategy (2006-15) and also of the 15-year United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) period.

It is against this background that I would like to share with you briefly some reflections—based on my experience (not only as Vice President, JICA but also as a former Secretary of the Development Committee, World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia, and Executive Director of the World Bank)—on the importance of development partner coordination.

- Coordination between development partners and with the government takes many forms and shapes and is, or should be, geared to the specific administrative and institutional circumstances and needs of the host country.
- Coordination of financial flows and technical cooperation provided by development partners—whether members of a formal coordinating mechanism such as the DCC or not(?)—needs to be led and managed by the host government *and*, to the extent possible, these resources should be reflected in the country's national budget.
- Coordination is a continuing process, not an end itself, and its fundamental goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the external resources available. Moreover, indicators of efficiency and effectiveness are measured not only by inputs, such as financial inputs or technical input (training,...) or even by outputs, such as higher agricultural production, but ultimately by *outcomes* and *impact*—in terms of improved incomes, health, education quality, jobs and employment, and ultimately, living standards of the people being served and, more broadly, of the country's economic and social development.

The DCC presentation later in this meeting today— on PRS Outcomes—Retrospective—offers ample evidence of progress made towards development outcomes and impact during the last three years, in particular in terms of: macroeconomic trends; the MDGs; private sector development; governance and public administration; and energy security, food security, and connectivity. These achievements are obviously those of the Tajik authorities and people themselves, but they are also the product of advice and resources provided by the DCC during this period. As such, and more importantly, they constitute a series of benchmarks by which progress of the new Living Standards Improvement Strategy (2013-15) will be monitored and evaluated. In this connection, and aligned to the Strategy, the DCC suggests particular

emphasis on four cross-cutting themes going forward: Putting People as a Priority; Planning for and Managing Risks; Using Public Resources Wisely; and Increasing the Role of the Private Sector.

Notwithstanding the progress made to date, there always remains room for improvement and, during the next three years, the DCC plans additional efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its contribution to Tajikistan's development. Grounded in the *Shared Principles for Cooperation between the Government of Tajikistan and international Development Partners* (themselves based on the 2005 Paris Declaration and, more recently, the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation), these efforts will include:

- More external resources to flow through the national budget and greater use of country systems—in the interests of greater transparency and public accountability;
- Where appropriate, greater use of sector-wide approaches (SWAps);
- Greater mutual, *i.e.* government and DCC, accountability—using existing instruments and mechanisms, such as quarterly meetings of the Investment Council, monthly meetings of the DCC, sector and thematic clusters and working groups—to monitor and measure progress continuously;
- Improved outreach to and involvement of civil society organizations in the development process—by both DCC members and government agencies.
- And ultimately, better results for the people of Tajikistan.

Let me wish you great success in leading the country embarks on a new phase of development and integration into the world community. As is clear by today's event, the DCC stands behind you.

[12082012]