I appreciate very much indeed this occasion to talk about human security approach focusing on global health. It's really easy for us to talk about nuclear proliferation as an arm of security, but now we have another invisible increasing threat closely related to health issues. Now I have to say there's an urgent need for more funding for global health from industrialized countries. There has been a rapid increase in funding for global health over the past several years. The global development assistance for health totaled U.S. $6 billion in 2000. That more than doubled to U.S. $14 billion by 2005, but drastically more resources are still needed.

AIDS has grown increasingly incredibly costly in terms of life lost as well as financial resources. Anti-retroviral treatment has transformed AIDS for many people from a death sentence to a chronic disease. Even though these AIDS drugs have become much less expensive in recent years, they are still impossible for most AIDS patients to afford on their own or for national governments to provide. Vast resources are needed just to fight the three major communicable diseases – HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

In addition, the health systems themselves, the systems for delivering prevention such as immunization and treatment services for a whole spectrum of illness and injuries, remain weak in most developing countries, particularly in rural areas, where large portions of the population do not have health facilities they can physically access, and the facilities that do exist are woefully understaffed. The recent investment in communicable diseases has shown what is possible if the international community and country-level actors make strong commitment to people's health, but weak health systems have limited these programs' ability to deliver services.

Also, this progress has highlighted our failure to produce similar results in strengthening health systems. Many countries are now in a vicious cycle in which the rapid spread of communicable diseases is overwhelming health facilities and personnel, and the weakened facilities are further hindering the health workers' ability to fight the spread of these diseases. In this context, we urgently need a dramatic increase in funding for interventions that fight communicable diseases and strengthen health systems.

Why should this be considered the responsibility of the advanced industrial countries? As people and goods move across borders more easily, disease also moves across the borders at alarming rates. For example, the SARS outbreak of 2003 and subsequent outbreaks of avian influenza have proven to be costly lessons that a lack of effective response to health challenges in one country can have devastating effects on other countries, even countries on the opposite side of the world. The world has become more economically
interdependent, and those of us in the industrialized world are increasingly dependent on labor and consumer markets in developing countries. Thus the spread of major communicable diseases, such as AIDS and malaria, has dealt significant economic blows at the macro level and to individual companies operating in the endemic areas. For example, the World Bank estimates that 20 percent of the HIV infection rate in any given country can translate into a one percent decline in GDP. As another example, some companies working in countries with high HIV infection rates have found that they have to hire and train as many as three employees for every position to keep pace with the toll of AIDS on their workforce.

Now I am talking about human security. Health is the center pillar of an individual life, lifestyle, and livelihood. As such, it is an important factor in determining people's daily sense of security or insecurity. We are increasingly seeing health threats that cross border issues. A human security approach to health focuses on the way in which individuals and communities are intertwined based on health conditions, rather than on national borders, racial or ethnic climates.

One of the most important aspects of human security is that it aims to strengthen both protection and empowerment and focuses attention on where those two intersect. For example, protection in terms of health is easy to understand as a provision of prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services, as well as guarantees of healthy environments, but it is also important to focus on empowering people to monitor their own health to seek medical attention and provide education that this is about their health and that of their families and communities.

Human security also looks at the way in which protection and empowerment intersect, emphasizing the important role of this intersection and creating an enabling environment for empowered communities. One example of this intersection is health workforces. We have quite a lot of talk about the migration for professionals, the brain drain. The donors in central governments already focus a lot of their attention on educating and empowering health workers through training and skill building, but retention of trained health workers in developing countries, particularly in rural areas, has become a major challenge. We need to think more about how the protection side can be encouraged so health workers can live and work in places where they are most urgently needed. This requires not only paying them adequately but also having strong health systems in place so that they can do their jobs. Workers in health systems should be supported by medical equipment, essential drugs, and medical doctors.

Japan has already made a very important contribution to global health. In 2000, we were the host of the Okinawa Summit. We proposed a new initiative for infectious diseases which brought about the establishment of the Global Fund. Many other new types of fund-raising came out giving new political momentum for infectious diseases.

But now we are having a new challenge. We are, of course, accelerating the existing disease-oriented approaches, but also we have to strengthen the health system itself and create a well-balanced approach for
global health issues. Unfortunately, my country, Japan, is facing a very serious budget deficit, and it is getting increasingly difficult to convince Japanese policy-makers to increase funding for the Global Fund or other global health initiatives, but my colleagues and I very enthusiastically work to persuade policy-makers to increase those resources for global health.

Now as a host nation of the G-8 Summit and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Japan should take the lead in proposing ways to better integrate disease-specific problems with health system strengthening so that they can better reinforce each other, public health through human security. Japan also listened to its own experience with community-driven approaches to public health in the post-war period. Japan made use of community health workers for specific diseases who were rooted in the community so they understood the actual needs of the communities and could respond quickly and flexibly to need while monitoring the health of their communities.

Another is the mother-and-child-health handbook that provides expectant and new mothers with a tool for monitoring their children's health which empowers them to take responsibility for their own and their families' health. This has been translated into the other languages to be used other countries. I myself had a very interesting experience. Last year my mother passed away, and I went to my mother's house to clean up. I found my own mother-and-child-health handbook in the most sacred place of my mother's house. It is one of the symbols. The mother-and-child handbook is a very important tool in creating close ties between mother and child.

In other words, we focused on connecting the micro level or community with the macro level or decision-making, which is one of the central pillars of human security. The human security concept has already been brushed up through several activities of the Human Security Commission, co-chaired by Sadako Ogato and Professor Amartya Sen. Peter Sutherland did a wonderful job as the core member for the Commission and brushed up the concept of human security and the focus on the people in the community as a unit for policy-making and implementation, using the two pillars, human empowerment and human protection, in order to create the most efficient, comprehensive approach focusing on people's well-being.

Focusing on people in community means that community is the unit of decision-making and implementation. The community is the endpoint of the policy implementation based on top-down decision making, but, on the other hand, the community is the starting point of the bottom-up decision making. That is the very important endpoint, why and how we can combine those two, top-down decision making and bottom-up decision making, in the most well balanced way.

Engaging the communities means that we have to develop the networks with NGOs of the civil society. Many OECD countries have begun to employ a new diplomatic framework in order to widen their influence in global politics. These frameworks focus on three pillars of diplomacy: the bilateral, multilateral, and civil society in the networking diplomacies. The many upper-, middle-OECD countries have now started to
mobilize those three tools for diplomacy and widen the role of the global community, focusing on specified common agendas.

This is the new kind of game, and competitions are now starting among the new players of the middle-sized countries, most of the developed countries. As a result, new competitions, new kinds of initiatives, came out recently for global health. Last December, the UK proposed the International Health Partnership, and Norway proposed another initiative for mother-and-child health. Also, the World Bank publicized healthy development and nutrition.

Now we have to think about the wider range of a scheme for harmonization among those initiatives. This is another subject we should have at the coming G-8 Summit. I would like to finally recommend something for the G-8 Summit as a host nation. As I already mentioned, there is an urgent need to mobilize more funding for global health investing and strengthening health systems while also strengthening our commitment to fighting specific major diseases. The G-8 countries and other industrialized countries also need to make commitments to sustainable funding for global health over the long term. Considering the magnitude of financial resources needed for global health, it is unrealistic to expect that developing countries will be able to become self-sufficient in the near future. At the same time, building strong health systems requires making long-term investments and knowing that funding will still be available in this a decade or two later.

I have also talked about the need to develop a comprehensive global health framework that integrates the two strategies of disease-specific funding and health systems strengthening. One challenge we face in gaining the commitment to health systems strengthening is that it is difficult to get people excited about supporting the health system. The policy-makers also need to get excited about strengthening the health system. It is easy to persuade taxpayers to spend the money for it, but when they talk about health systems strengthening, they say, what does it mean to value? We cannot easily understand the people who pay the money for it, but we have to challenge for it.

Finally, I will just mention why the Japanese are so keen about the human security approach. As you may know, we had very strong anti-war sentiment, which caused the pacifism of the Japanese people, mostly the elderly generation. The anti-war sentiment pacifism was created through our people's individual tragedy and experiences during World War II, but that old type of anti-war sentiment pacifism is nearly gone. We have to build up the new, the future-oriented pragmatic pacifism in domestic politics and to create a real basis as a stakeholder in this global community. That's the reason we have to pay such attention on the human security approach. I hope that this challenge can be a success and strengthen the basis in our people's minds in terms of human security.

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