

Draft

Session 3 “Regional mechanisms for monitoring and accountability for implementation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”
Statement of Chikako Takase, Director, UNCRD to be delivered at
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Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was established in 1971 based on the agreement between the United Nations (UN) and the Government of Japan dated 18 June 1971. The mandate was given by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which stipulated the objectives and activities of the UNCRD as mainly to serve as a training and research centre in regional development and planning and related fields for developing countries and to provide advisory services.

UNCRD's interventions in developing countries are clustered under three main thematic interrelated and complementary areas of work – (a) Integrated Regional Development Planning; (b) Sustainable Urban Management; and (c) Knowledge Management. Sustainable Urban Management comprises overall sustainable urban management and planning, Environment Programme and Disaster Management Planning Programme.

In recent years, under the overall framework of “regional development,” UNCRD has been aiming to contribute towards sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since the Rio+20 conference, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, UNCRD has been geared towards contributing to the implementation of the outcome document of the Rio+20, *The Future We Want*, by aligning our programmes to it. UNCRD will also contribute towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda once they are adopted.

For the theme of this session, I would like to highlight our two activities within the Environment Programme, promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) and 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). For both of these focused areas, with the generous support of the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan, UNCRD co-organizes with the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan and host countries, regional EST forum in Asia and regional 3R forum in Asia and the Pacific.

Although both forums do not cover the whole membership of ESCAP, regional EST Forum in Asia has 24 countries and regional 3R forum in Asia and the Pacific enjoys 33 countries participation. For each forum, the participating governments have adopted non-binding guidance documents with clear goals and suggested targets. They are contained in Bangkok Declaration for 2020 – Sustainable Transport Goals 2010 – 2020 for EST and Ha Noi 3R Declaration – Sustainable 3R Goals for Asia and the Pacific for 2013 – 2023.

Under each process, the participating countries are voluntarily developing their own country strategies to meet these goals and each forum provides platform for exchange of information and monitoring of the progress.

Environmentally Sustainable Transport and 3Rs are focused areas, but represent important areas within SDGs. UNCRD hopes that these annual processes of focused areas can also make contribution to the regional review and monitoring exercise of APFSD.

UNCRD's another major stream of work on Integrated Regional Development Planning is a work at the subnational level. "Region" here indicates subnational region, but the actual boundary can be set flexibly: it can be a city, a state, a city region, several states or watershed area, for example. A region is defined by the issues of concern. But for the sake of simplicity, we consider it is set by an administrative boundary now and therefore it refers to subnational government now. Although the modality of review and monitoring considered in the session seems to be by the Government only, UNCRD believes that in the actual implementation, subnational level governments play an important role. The lesson from the initial Rio Conference, the Earth Summit, "Think globally, act locally" still applies. UNCRD supports the participatory national consultation process – from the planning, implementation and to review and monitoring.

Thank you.