Input from the Delegation of Japan  
To the Preparatory Process for the Third International Conference  
On Small Island Developing States

<Modality of the outcome document>

Since the primary aim of the outcome document should be to underline the emergency of the challenges faced by the SIDS in order to strengthen their partnership with the international community, it is necessary that the document send a strong and clear message to the world. Though there were two outcome documents at the last SIDS Conference – a political declaration (Mauritius Declaration) and an action plan (Mauritius Strategy) – Japan believes that in the current context we should refrain from revising or creating a new action plan, since the progress of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy has still to be reviewed at the High Level Political Forum. Therefore, at the upcoming Conference, we should adopt a brief, concise and focused political declaration, which incorporates a limited number of prioritized themes.

The perspective of human security, which calls for a people-centered approach, is useful in addressing complex and interrelated challenges, and therefore this perspective should be properly taken into account as we consider ways to address the various challenges faced by the SIDS and as we formulate the outcome document.

<Prioritized fields/themes proposed by Japan>

<Climate change and energy>

The international community needs to make a concerted effort to implement their measures to tackle climate change, putting special emphasis on issue of adaptation, to which vulnerable countries, such as the SIDS, place a high priority. In addition to these efforts, the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, especially those related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, become extremely important. Such transfers are also meaningful to SIDS directly as a means to provide affordable energy.
<Disaster Risk Reduction>
Building a disaster-resilient-society is crucial for SIDS because they are located in disaster prone areas. Promoting both infrastructure (e.g. observation equipment such as seismographs, early warning systems, etc.) and software (e.g. educating/training local residents how to promptly and safely evacuate in the event of a natural disaster) is important for this objective.

<Ocean issues (fishery)>
A large portion of the food supply of the SIDS comes from the ocean, and sustainable use of marine resources bears great importance for them. To this end, establishing rules regarding the use of marine resources within both international and regional frameworks (e.g. CITES, FAO, RFMOs) and providing technical assistance through both international and regional bodies as well as bilateral channels are effective.

<Health>
With the double burden of infectious diseases and the growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCD), a comprehensive health policy is greatly needed in SIDS. Access to essential health services as well as increased financial protection will play a central role in achieving universal health coverage (UHC). Furthermore, the sustainability of UHC with cost-effective and good quality service is needed in preparation for an aging society.

<Waste management>
With scarce land on the one hand, and small amounts of waste (not suitable for large waste disposal facilities) on the other, it is most effective and realistic for SIDS to focus on enhancing and promoting and waste reclamation and the 3Rs (Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling), or the 4Rs (3R plus returning recyclable goods to countries of origin).

<Gender (empowerment of women)>
Given their relatively small populations, the economies and societies of the SIDS will greatly benefit from the enhanced empowerment of women.