Thank you Mr. Chair,

Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman,

Good morning.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the support extended to Japan from all over the world for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Kyushu Region in Japan which suffered from a series of huge earthquakes in mid-April. At the same time, Ecuador was also struck by a big earthquake. I sincerely hope for quick recovery of the heavily damaged and affected areas of the host country of Habitat III.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Toshitsugu Uesawa, I am the new Ambassador of Japan to Kenya and Permanent Representative of Japan to UN-Habitat. I understand that my predecessor, H.E. Mr. Terada, made a huge contribution to UN-Habitat during his tenure. In this regard, it is my earnest hope to succeed his efforts and to make an even greater contribution to UN-Habitat.

As we are all aware, this year is critical for UN-Habitat. As the first major UN conference after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Habitat III is going to be held. It is my strong will to actively join the discussions at the preparation process of this important conference for housing and sustainable urban development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour to announce that Japan will co-organise the TICAD VI (the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development), in Nairobi in August, together with the United Nations,
UNDP, World Bank and the African Union. Coincidentally, it is going to be held between the PrepCom3 in July, and Habitat III in October. The main theme of Habitat III, “sustainable urbanisation”, will also be a key focus of TICAD VI. I strongly hope that the importance of “sustainable urbanisation” will be emphasized through Habitat III and TICAD VI.

From tomorrow, the TICAD VI Ministerial Preparatory Meeting will be held in Banjul, The Gambia. Once again, let me extend my sincere appreciation to your active participation to the TICAD VI preparatory process. During the Ministerial meeting in The Gambia, the debate will centre on finalising the outcome document, “Nairobi Declaration.”

Last but not least, the TICAD VI Summit will be held in Nairobi on 27th and 28th August. We are looking forward to welcoming representatives of governments, international organisations, and other invitees at the Conference.

Finally, let us hope that the outcome of the TICAD VI will shed light on the solutions for current global matters regarding sustainable urbanisation, and will also contribute to the fruitful discussions at Habitat III meetings.

Thank you.