

*Parliamentary action for social development  
and justice*

*Ms. Michiko Ueno (second speaker from Japan)*

My name is Michiko Ueno. I am a member of the House of Councillors of Japan and deputy leader of our delegation.

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to those affected by the devastating earthquake in Myanmar at the end of last month. I pray that the affected areas will be able to recover as soon as possible.

The deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is 2030, which is now only five years away. Although it will be difficult for any country to achieve all its goals, it is important that we continue our efforts to achieve the SDG principle of leaving no one behind.

Japan will soon host the EXPO 2025 in Osaka from 13 April to 13 October. The theme of “Designing Future Society for Our Lives” includes the goal of contributing to the achievement of SDGs. The EXPO is a place to demonstrate new technologies and systems that create a realistic picture of a future society, and many of the pavilions will exhibit challenges made to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in areas such as health, medicine, and environmental issues. We see this as an excellent opportunity to think together about what it will look like to move beyond SDGs. And we look forward to welcoming many of you at the Expo.

As chairperson of the Liberal Democratic Party’s *Special Mission Committee for the Promotion of the Japan Well-being Programme*, I have stressed the need for well-being on a great number of occasions as well as submitted seven different proposals to the Government. The response has been a growing momentum in recent years to clearly position the concept of wellbeing in individual policy areas, such as in the *Basic Plan for*

*the Promotion of Education and the Basic Plan for the Environment.* And last November, the *International Organisation for Standardisation* issued *ISO 25554*, which is a set of guidelines for communities and companies to promote well-being in an ageing society, based on basic principles of health management as proposed by Japan. This provides a foundation for organisations around the world to work on improving wellbeing in their own context.

When we consider the common goal of improving wellbeing, it is important that elements such as self-affirmation and self-realisation be nurtured harmoniously and integrally, in accordance with individual abilities and achievement, and based on human connections and relationships, such as collaboration and social contribution.

If we are to create society in which no one vulnerable is left behind, we parliamentarians will need to work together to tackle

issues through which we can integrate well-being into the growth strategies of each country and region, in accordance with individual circumstances, and with the SDGs as a common basis.

Finally, I'd like to share with all of you my conviction that a world blessed with well-being can only be achieved when we have peace and order.

Thank you for listening.