

**"Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs,
particularly responsible consumption and production"**

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In order to achieve both economic growth and sustainable development, we need to urgently reduce our "Ecological Footprint" by changing the way we produce and consume, which is the axis of our economic activities. High-income countries, including Japan, have extremely high levels of Ecological Footprint, and we bear a tremendous responsibility for the global environment. High-income countries must lead the world in "responsible consumption and production". In order to achieve this, each and every one of us as individuals and economic agents, including corporations and other organizations, must be aware of the impact of our own economic activities and consumption choices. The current critical situation of the global environment is not something that can be solved by politics or other partial actions. We are now in a situation where there is no end in sight, and hope can only be found through the concerted efforts of "all mankind" and "everyone on earth." As a prerequisite for this concerted effort, each and every one of us needs to have sufficient information about our environmental impact and share the same sense of crisis.

Until now, it has taken a great deal of effort to acquire the information needed to be aware of the situation. However, with the advancement of digital technology, it is now possible to increase the transparency of information disclosure in all economic activities, including production and consumption, more easily and at a lower cost than ever before. Digitalization makes it easy to visualize the environmental impact of economic activities. In addition, as the digitalized information becomes more precise and connected, it becomes possible to check and correct any waste in the flow of goods and services.

In addition to these information benefits, digitization can also help reduce costs and improve efficiency, including resource efficiency, which is another area that should be actively pursued.

We recommend that countries, especially high-income countries, promote the use of digitalization as a powerful means to realize "responsible consumption and production" both domestically and as a move to strengthen global cooperation across borders.