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1. Opening
Thank you Chair, Director General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to have this opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the Government of Japan at the International Labour Conference.

2. The DG’s Report
Firstly, I would like to share with you the issues we place importance on and the measures we are taking in relation to the report titled ‘Work in a changing climate: The Green Initiative’ prepared by the Director General.

With respect to global warming, unless we increase our efforts to tackle this issue collectively, the average global temperature at the end of this century is projected to increase by 2.6 to 4.8 °C, compared with that of the year of 2000.

Such rapid warming could significantly affect both the way people live and work.

To minimize the adverse effects of global warming, we have to make a shift toward a greener and more sustainable form of production and consumption style. When making this transition, we are supposed to give full consideration for ensuring that workers could adjust to this change smoothly. Thus, we believe that ‘the Green Initiative’
advocated by the Director General is timely and highly significant from this perspective.

3. Japan's Policy on Climate Change
We have accepted the Paris Agreement, which aims at keeping the increase in average global temperature to well below 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels, and we are working toward fulfilling that commitment.

In addition, we are planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions steadily by promoting technological development in the environment and energy fields and through the efforts of the nation as a whole. Moreover, to enrich people’s lives while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by taking advantage of Japan's excellent environmental technology and experiences in this area, we are working toward steadily implementing projects to counter climate change worth 1.3 trillion yen in developing countries in 2020.

4. Realizing Decent Work
In addition to addressing climate change, the realization of decent work is a critical challenge.

In Japan, with the falling birth rate, the productive age population (that is, those from 15 to 64 years of age) has been continuing to decline for more than 20 years since 1995. We are seriously concerned about the adverse effects of this trend on the economy and society, such as labour shortages and the increase in the burden of social security per worker.

In order to overcome the challenges associated with the declining productive age population, to increase the vitality of society, to achieve economic growth, and to achieve better social protection, the Japanese Government, Workers and Employers are cooperating to implement “Work-Style Reforms”.

We do not intend to address labour shortages by increasing working hours. Our solution is to minimize the shortage in labour by promoting the participation of women and the elderly who want to work and improving working environments which enable them to keep working as long as they want.

In addition, we will work toward increasing labour productivity through raising the motivation and morale of workers by utilizing technological innovations and realizing equal pay for equal work. We also intend to do so by transferring the culture of "kaizen" that has been so effective in Japan’s manufacturing industry to the service industry among others.

We developed an action plan for the realization of work style reform in March this year. In accordance with the points set out in the Action Plan, including realizing equal pay for equal work and regulating the maximum hours of overtime work permitted, we are going to promptly submit legislation to the Diet soon after holding discussions in the related council.

In this manner, we will continue to promote "Work Style Reform" towards the realization of decent work and a more sustainable society.

5. Closing
Japan is a leading solution provider in addressing issues including declining birth rate and aging. We hope that our experiences and systems, including both our successes and our failures, can be of reference to all of you in addressing your own domestic issues.

Through exchanging information and opinions, we would like to work together to tackle the difficult challenge of realizing a society wherein decent work and a sustainable economy are both achieved.

Thank you.