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SECTION I: Climate Mitigation and Energy, Technology and Innovation, Reimagining and Transforming Economies

1. **Commit to ending the exportation of fossil fuel infrastructure and pivot to the promotion of renewable energy technology, best-practices, and infrastructure abroad.** We give the following recommendations to MOFA, METI, and MLIT:
   a. Divest from coal projects internationally. Pledge to increase funding to accelerate the green energy transition in other countries.
   b. Develop and grow collaborative and co-innovative partnerships and fora to share best practices, human resources, and advanced technology in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, and green hydrogen.
   c. Consistently and proactively expand the number of Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) partners, particularly in Africa where presently there are few in number.
   d. Ensure that partnerships and programs such as the “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” prioritize green infrastructure in the context of investment projects, and overseas direct investment (ODA).

2. **Streamline regulation to favor and accelerate the development of renewable energy and battery storage in Japan.** We give the following recommendations to METI:
   a. Clarify and reduce regulatory barriers to understanding of the transition to the feed-in premium (FIP) system for renewable energy developers.
   b. Develop financial incentives for the installation of rooftop solar, in residential, commercial, and industrial zones.
   c. Simplify the auction process for renewable energy and particularly offshore wind power generation.
   d. Increase the clean energy targets of all future Basic Energy Plans. Develop government-led research programs and policy roadmaps into innovative and hitherto untapped or underutilized energy sources, such as geothermal, small-scale hydro, and clean biogas.
   e. Invest in R+D for battery storage and implement storage technologies nationwide, particularly in sparsely populated regions vulnerable to inconsistent power supply.
   f. Develop and publish robust policy guidelines for Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to promote the sale of renewable electricity.

3. **Understanding that it will make all the difference for renewable energy adoption, dramatically speed up grid upgrades to facilitate a better integrated, more flexible, and more resilient grid.**
   We give the following recommendations to METI and OCCTO in particular:

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1 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
3 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
5 Organization for Cross-regional Coordination of Transmission Operators
a. Implement demand-response (DR) strategies to ensure flexible response to low supply and outage scenarios.

4. **Incorporate energy efficiency measures into residential, commercial and industrial buildings and facilities nationwide.** We give the following recommendation to METI:
   a. Mandate that new constructions are built with double-glazed glass, sufficient insulation, and sustainable construction materials.
   b. Retrofit older buildings to meet modern energy efficiency standards. Roll out smart meters for residential and commercial use for new buildings and subsidize their purchase for existing buildings. Continue building on Japan’s success in industrial energy efficiency measures by developing these measures further and sharing them with other countries.

5. **Phase out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and promote sustainable transportation, particularly public transportation.** We give the following recommendations to METI and MLIT:
   a. Establish low-emission zones (LEZ) as an interim measure that prioritize pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
   b. Speed up and incentivize adoption of hybrid, electric vehicles (EVs), and vehicle-to-grid technologies (V2G), such as charging infrastructure and batteries.
   c. Grow public transport networks in rural and suburban areas with heavy car use.

6. **Establish capacity-building and training programs for professional and educational development for young people on topics relevant to the green economy.** We give the following recommendations to METI and MEXT:
   a. Support green entrepreneurship and green careers by way of targeted programs for young people, especially those that establish linkages between scientific research in green energy and commercialization of sustainable solutions.
   b. Develop green energy upskilling programs and initiatives to address immediate Green Economy knowledge gaps, needs, and policy priorities.
   c. Develop avenues for young people to participate in high-level discussion of climate mitigation and adaptation, by utilizing the potential of social media to reach a wide array of youth.

**SECTION II: Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), Youth Empowerment, and Global Partnerships**

1. **For multistakeholder accountability and engagement.**
   a. The Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) should seek to develop joint research partnerships between countries and universities to collaborate on the creation of coordinated responses on regional climate issues.

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\(^6\) Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
b. The Ministry of Environment (MOE) should pledge to create a new annual framework of citizen participation on climate issues. The framework should embed two rounds of consultation, the first technical round in which industry branch stakeholders collaborate to deliver a technical panel of solutions. In the second round drawn citizens could, through the examination of solutions, create a proposition close to their usage which will be submitted and voted on by the parliament.

c. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) should put climate action as a duty in law, introducing the concept of responsibility to act for every actor having responsibility in climate change (citizens, businesses, and government representatives).

d. The United Nations (UN) should seek to establish similar platforms on the multilateral level. These platforms must allow further transparency and peer learning at every level of action, as well as the development of coordinated actions for the climate that promotes a) the acceptance of effort/sacrifice led by citizens, b) the readiness of technical solutions on a national scale by industries, and c) the financial support of actions by local governments.

2. To develop climate and sustainability-centred educational practices,

a. MEXT must initiate public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the reskilling and training of youth and the workforce in technical job areas that will be needed to complete the climate transition in Japan.

b. MEXT should encourage national universities to include education regarding the role of international organizations (IOs), and multilateral-level decision-making processes within the climate policy sphere in their curricula.

c. MEXT should commit to raising the awareness of citizens on the structural changes to accomplish a successful climate transition and promote alternative values, such as fairness and solidarity, disengaging from the notion of unlimited economic growth.

d. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) must foster youth’s capacity for civic and political engagement from an early age and empower youths to be directly involved in the political and advocacy process.

e. MEXT must provide facts-oriented climate education, detailing the gaps between the climate targets and the status quo in Japan, including climate-focused research activities and curricula for students in primary, secondary, and higher education that promote innovation, scholarship, and global citizenship.

f. MEXT should encourage local governments to provide funding and grant opportunities for practical climate change learning initiatives, such as exchange programs with climate-vulnerable/advanced countries, pitch competitions, hackathons, living without plastic, let’s clean nature, etc.

3. To support mental health and wellbeing.

a. MEXT must recognize the link between psychological threats and climate change and must address climate change education in a way that reduces the "sense of hopelessness" among students and young people in general. Educational programs

must give students a panel of solutions so that they can confront, critically evaluate, and better manage their difficult feelings.

b. MEXT should encourage the formation of government-funded professional development opportunities and programs for teachers to help students to cope with their emotions through their learning on climate crises and stakes.

c. MEXT should provide free and comprehensive counselling and coaching to support the mental health and psychosocial development of children and adolescents, promoting community resilience, building adaptive capacity, and disaster preparedness.

4. To strengthen support for the Youth Climate Movement,
   a. MOE should officially establish a Youth Ministry of the Environment, composed entirely of youth, to promote awareness and self-responsibility of climate change among Japanese youth.
   b. MOE needs to recognize the importance of youth’s voluntary and proactive activities, and focus groups and support them through resource mobilization and management together with mentorship.
   c. MOE and METI should create a youth’s climate change financing hub where available funding sources for climate projects are centralized and the process of applying for funds is transparent.
   d. MEXT should elevate meaningful youth engagement for climate action in Japan by organizing capacity-building programs for youth, especially at local levels, where most are affected by climate change. Training courses are expected to improve youth’s skills at least in project management, fundraising, communication, and policy advocacy, so young people can effectively initiate and participate in the climate movement.

5. To empower the Green Jobs transition,
   a. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) should introduce a roadmap to convert the Japanese workforce into a green workforce, supporting citizens in the transition of new job opportunities as industries evolve toward green technologies and new consumption processes.
   b. The companies in the green sector should a) promote training programs that certify workers and b) collaborate with educational institutions to ultimately upskill the workforce to respond to the demands of a carbon-neutral society.

6. To enhance democratization of climate information,
   a. MOE must centralize and promote Japanese climate change-related official or qualified data and knowledge produced by research institutions, think tanks, private sectors, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the Government of Japan to provide them in a digestible and accessible way for all demographics.
   b. MEXT needs to provide training and certification programs to help teachers accurately convey climate information and communicate climate-related advocacy tools to youth.
SECTION III: Water, Oceans, Nature, and Biodiversity

1. **We recognise the far-ranging impacts of single-use plastics on our oceans, waterways, and ecological systems** and wish for Japan to follow the actions of others, such as India and the European Union, on the banning of single-use plastics.\(^8\)
   a. We support recent moves towards reducing the distribution of single-use plastics, and request that stronger actions are taken.
   b. We call on the Government to create a national action plan towards the banning of single-use plastics following an extensive community consultation process. This plan should focus on a progressive transition towards sustainable alternatives and provide funding for education to consumers on the environmental impact of their choice to use single-use plastics.
   c. We call for the Government to make a binding commitment to reduce the amount of plastic produced and to implement regulations reflecting this commitment.

2. **We call on the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan to create regulations prohibiting the sale of cosmetic products containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, amongst other ingredients,** which are believed to contribute to coral bleaching.\(^9\) We call on the Government to provide financial subsidies to businesses producing cosmetics containing reef-safe ingredients to encourage their production and distribution. In addition, we request that the Government provides education for consumers on the benefits of using reef-safe and eco-friendly products, and to encourage their use.

3. **Looking to the growing microplastics contamination issue,**\(^10\) we call on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan to support the development of sophisticated technologies and institutions to identify and process microplastics which represent a great threat to marine biota. We would appreciate the implementation of necessary regulatory frameworks to promote responsible production and consumption to prevent further contamination of the ocean by microplastics and harmful chemicals from industries such as cosmetics and fashion.

4. **We request the Japanese Government to benefit from its chairship of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Association** to bring in measures to revoke the subsidy provided to the oil industry. It is also requested to invest in Research and Development and to bring in regulatory measures to process and dispose of the sludge produced from burning of oil in the ships, which is carbon-intensive, highly polluting and can cause a huge damage to the marine environment.\(^11\)

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\(^9\) **The Senate Twenty-Ninth Legislator 2018, State of Hawaii, Relating to Water Pollution, 2018, A Bill for an Act**

\(^10\) **Mitsuharu Yagi et al., Microplastic pollution of commercial fishes from coastal and offshore waters in southwestern Japan, 2022.**

\(^11\) **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiczv66853M**
5. **We urge the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to collaborate with the World Wildlife Fund's Global FIP Alliance for Sustainable Tuna (G-FAST) Initiative.**
   a. We recommend adding fish species to the country’s currently limited Total Allowable Catch (TAC) list. Such measures would target key species such as tuna, saury among others which have seen a decline in recent years due to overfishing by the Japanese fishing industry.
   b. We also recommend more stringent monitoring of current mechanisms to prevent underreporting of catch limits and to ensure stricter enforcement of violations.

6. **In the ongoing discussion of transboundary marine protected areas in Japan, the U.S., and the Canadian region,** we call for the completion of discussions on the establishment of the IUCN-required system of spatial nature reserves by 2025, by including reference to commercial, academic, and non-navigational uses in deep-sea areas, not just protection at sea level for CBD-COP 15 and UNFCCC COP 27.

7. **As Japanese youth, we have observed that current education curriculums are not providing youth sufficient access to climate knowledge.**
   a. We recommend that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of the Environment work in collaboration to amend national school curriculums. This curriculum should aim to promote awareness of oceans, nature and biodiversity issues to students and embed climate education as relevant to the age group through outdoor activity-based learning.
   b. We call for a more inclusive process in drafting this curriculum where various stakeholders are considered through public participation, similar to the current survey being done by India.¹²

8. **We request that the Government of Japan form a Pacific-focused task force** to assess the marine impact of the planned disposal of nuclear wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean over the proposed time period. This task force should comprise of Governments, non-government organizations, and international bodies such as the United Nations who share the maritime boundary who may be impacted by this action to ensure the transparency of environmental effects to regional partners.

9. **As the youth of Japan, we are disheartened by the plans to expand military bases due to detrimental environmental impacts.** Further changes to current approaches are requested to protect the biodiversity of these areas.
   a. We call on the Japanese Government to expand the jurisdiction of environmental protection laws, namely the Marine Pollution Control Law, to apply within military bases in order to facilitate environmental oversight and monitoring. This may include allowing access to U.S. military facilities without prior notice where it has been suspected that an event causing environmental harm has occurred.
   b. We request that the results of the monitoring are made public in line with Principle 10 of the *Rio Declaration*, of which Japan is a signatory.

¹² [Digital Survey for National Curriculum (DiSaNC)](digital-sa.nc)
SECTION IV: Climate Justice and Human Rights, Politics, Policymaking, and Governance

1. To support climate justice,
   a. We strongly encourage Japanese Government Leaders to implement programming to introduce and emphasize climate justice\textsuperscript{13} in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by providing education\textsuperscript{14} for policy makers and by establishing an independent committee tasked with developing a publica campaign to communicate ethical perspectives on climate justice throughout the policy making process and environmental ethics and humanities.
   b. We seek Ministry of Environment (MOE), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(MAFF), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism(MLIT) to inquire quantitatively about vulnerable areas in Japan and provide enough information about climate risks not only those living in endangered areas but also all over Japan by creating an uniform risk assessment framework to express prefectural climate vulnerability and climate risk and encouraging local governments to take initiatives by hosting the study meeting to learn the possible impacts from climate change towards their citizens.

2. To strengthen climate leadership,
   a. We encourage Japanese Government Leaders to support public campaigns that highlight climate leadership, from the local levels to the highest levels.
   b. We strongly affirm the support for ESG measures to be better promoted and more widely accepted by actors in the public, private and civil sectors.
   c. We call on Japanese Government Leaders to engage in multilateral knowledge-sharing and capacity building to share Japanese waste management best practices.

3. For the protection of human rights and recognising that the climate crisis is not gender neutral and that the effects for women and girls are higher than for men, and the climate crisis amplifies inequalities among genders\textsuperscript{15}\textsuperscript{16},
   a. We call upon the Ministry of Justice to implement antidiscrimination policies prohibiting discrimination based on gender, racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual orientation, while also including specific protections for minorities, children, young people, and migrant workers who are vulnerable to exploitation via legal and illegal channels.
   b. We strongly recommend that Japanese policy-making processes enforce the Following the Gender Action Plan by UNFCCC on COP25\textsuperscript{17} and Japanese progress on this

\textsuperscript{13} United Nation, Climate Justice, 2019
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/climate-justice/

\textsuperscript{14} PEW Research Center "In Response to Climate Change, Citizens in Advanced Economies Are Willing To Alter How They Live and Work" 9.2021

\textsuperscript{15} UN Women "Explainer: How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected" 2.2022

\textsuperscript{16} World Economic Forum “Global Gender Gap Report 2022” 7.2022

\textsuperscript{17} UNFCCC “the Gender Action Plan” 2020
scheme through enhancing the gender balance and women’s leadership through the systematic integration of gender considerations into climate policy and actions.

c. We require METI, and the Ministry of Health, Labour standards to integrate cross-sectional and inclusive climate resilient development solutions to prioritize risk reduction, equity, and justice in line with the IPCC’s guidelines on “Vulnerability and Exposure of Ecosystems and People”, with particular focus on:
   i. Mandating annually reporting by all public and private sector entities on gender gap statistics and an action plan for improvement in the next fiscal year;
   ii. Introducing financial incentives for corporations to achieve gender parity in their hiring practices;
   iii. Implementing stringent measures to reduce obstacles for women in entering, remaining, and achieving senior positions in the workforce, and also providing funding for skills-based training programs aimed at increasing the professional capabilities of women and creating pathways into management positions in the public and private sectors.

d. We recommend that Japanese Government Leaders renew their commitments to the Develop Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment by building a 5-year strategy on domestic and international approaches for women’s rights using the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles and 2022 SDG Action Plan frameworks and maintain accountability through implementing a detailed reporting mechanism to track progress.

SECTION V: Adaptation and Resilience-building, Disaster Risk Reduction

1. **For the protection of migrants and the right to transnational mobility,** we emphasize the need for The UN to endorse ‘climate refugees’ under the ambit of UNHCR’s 1951 Refugee Convention. This official inclusion will propel proactive policy recommendations that benefit climate migrants and host nations in these times when we have the increasing need for migration as a climate adaptation strategy.

2. **For the protection of migrants, refugees and right to mobility in Japan,** we request that Japanese Government Leaders revise existing asylum-seeker policies to be more inclusive and supportive of climate refugees and climate-displaced persons, by offering graduated levels of support to individuals and groups impacted by climate change, especially women, children, marginalized groups, and climate migrants. In particular, we call for:
   a. Dispersing autonomous power away from the Immigration Bureau of Japan by including a new task force that has the capacity and resources to investigate these cases.

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18 “Global Gender Gap Report 2022” 7.2022
19 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 2, Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report, “Vulnerability and Exposure of Ecosystems and People” 2022
21 MOFA “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition” 2019
22 MOFA “Climate Action Plan 2022” 2021
b. Creating a climate refugee fund, support groups, language training centres and a local mentorship mechanism to make the transition for these persons smoother.

c. Encouraging institutions of art and culture to communicate the benefits of integrating diversity, a younger population and a myriad of new skills and perspectives to break the stigma attached to opening borders.

3. To amplify and enable Japanese youth participation in international climate governance, we urge that participative democracy become the norm when formulating and revising National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans and International Policy Decisions. These digital/in-person mechanisms should majoritize representation (51%) from the youth and marginalized groups of society23.

4. We request that Japanese Government Leaders to provide financial support for the growth of Japan-based climate jobs in every region’s subprefecture/prefecture and municipalities (depending on population and land parcel area) to drive localized adaptation and resilience strategy. These teams should be diverse with at least 50% of the representation from youth, women, indigenous peoples, and members from the LGBTQIA+ community.

5. To address disaster risk reduction (DDR) at the international levels, we applaud Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), for their post disaster assistance around the world.

   a. We encourage their continued support towards disaster assistance, and request that they create a DRR vertical that collaborates with educational institutions, policy think tanks and indigenous communities in the most vulnerable regions, to proactively identify the drivers of risk and formulate action plans to adapt to and build resilience against these risks. Thus, mobilizing local groups with training, equipment, and adaptive early warning systems in inclusive languages.

   b. We applaud the Japanese Ministry of Environment for their extremely successful Cool Biz campaign and encourage them to create open-source guidelines that enables other countries around the world to replicate this unparalleled campaign.

6. To strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Japan,

   a. We ask the government to accelerate localized adaptive capacity-building and community resilience by investing in eco-system derived DRR solutions, a continued collaboration with The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and support towards traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) that targets the drivers of risk specific to a region.

   b. We request the Japanese government, in accordance with phase 2 of the Sendai Cooperative Initiative for DRR, to expand the training for DRR to government officials, local leaders, and youth stakeholders to 120,000 participants over the next 5 years.

   c. We urge the government to engage DRR specialists when planning retrofits to existing cities and new urban centres ensuring climate adaptive design. Taking into consideration biophilic principles for passive energy control, sea level rise, flood prevention, typhoon resilience, climate justice and climate-smart agriculture.

7. Recognizing the criticality of adapting to and building resilience against the abnormal repercussions of climate change,
   a. We encourage local governments and educational institutions to better equip residents, especially youth and vulnerable groups, towards emergency first response and to increase overall community resilience post disasters through workshops and training.
   b. We request the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to encourage regenerative farming techniques that promote healthy soils, food security, and increase carbon sequestration.  
   c. We urge municipalities and infrastructure related business entities to adopt a more climate-adaptive infrastructure through LEED Certification and regenerative retrofits to the Commons that reduce the effects of extreme heat, floods, sea level rise and build overall resilience.
   d. We emphasize the need for municipalities and prefectures to endorse and support community-led adaptation initiatives. Awareness and incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into communal activity should be encouraged through training, integration in school curriculum, infrastructure development and the provision of community spaces that encourage this collaboration.
   e. We urge government and higher educational institutions to mandate Sustainability and Climate Adaptive building methods into the curriculum for all Architecture, Urban Planning and Civil Engineering programs.

8. To safeguard the sustainability of climate adaptation finance,
   a. We request that the government further promote tax reductions and subsidy schemes to corporates willing to follow the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy mentioned below:  
      i. CSR directed towards registered climate adaptation NPOs and Civil Society Organizations.
      ii. Corporations with more than 3 billion USD in capital to allocate 3% and those with 2-3 billion USD in capital 2% of their net profits into CSR work. 1% of it being exclusively allocated to youth-driven climate efforts and/or investing in green start-ups through a Corporate Venture Capital (CVC) mechanism.
   b. We appeal to the Japanese government to introduce a carbon tax at USD $50 per tonne of carbon dioxide by 1 January 2023 with the following request:
      i. From a total of 30%, half to be directed towards public and private driven adaptation and resilience methods. With the remaining directed towards a disaster risk reduction fund in support of the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction.
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