INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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Contribution by Japan

to the CSTD 2023-2024 priority theme on "Data for Development"

<u>**PRIORITY THEME 1:**</u> **Data for Development**

1. What are the major contributions and risks of data in relation to the achievement of the 2030Agenda for Sustainable Development?
2. How can developing countries benefit from the data revolution while considering risks?
3. What national and international policies and support measures can help address the   challenges of the developing countries in the area of data relevant for sustainable development, including scientific and research purposes, data quality, data capabilities and   data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data?
4. In your country's view, what role could CSTD play in respect of data for development, including in the context of the Global Digital Compact?

With the belief that digital data is an engine for growth, then Japan's Prime Minister ABE Shinzo proposed the concept of Date Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in 2019. The DFFT is to promote the data free flow based on securing trust through transparency, where data useful for business and solving social issues can freely across borders, while ensuring trust in privacy, security, and intellectual property rights etc. Japan has promoted the DFFT in the international arena since then.

In the G7 Hiroshima Summit Meeting Japan hosted this May, digital including the DFFT was discussed.

"We reaffirm that cross-border data flows, information, ideas and knowledge generate higher productivity, greater innovation, and improved sustainable development, while raising challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property protection, and security including that of data and cloud infrastructure. We reiterate the importance of facilitating Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) to enable trustworthy cross-border data flows and invigorate the digital economy as a whole, while preserving governments' ability to address legitimate public interest. We stress our intention to operationalize this concept and our support for cooperation within the G7 and beyond to work towards identifying commonalities, complementarities and elements of convergence between existing regulatory approaches and instruments enabling data to flow with trust, in order to foster future interoperability such as through supporting multi-stakeholder engagement, leveraging the role of technologies, and clarifying domestic and municipal policies and due processes. In this regard, we endorse

the Annex on G7 Vision for Operationalising DFFT and its Priorities from the Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting, and the establishment of the Institutional Arrangement for Partnership. We task our relevant Ministers to continue working to deliver substantive outcomes and subsequently report back to us." (G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué, op39)

In addition, the Communiqué states as follows. Possible key ideas to address the above-mentioned questions are shown here:

"*We recognize the need to bridge the digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and the importance of initiatives to use data and technology for cities, such as smart city initiatives, to promote digital inclusion and address challenges in urban development. We will facilitate inclusive development and enable greater employability and movement of digital experts, and restate our commitment to supporting other countries to increase digital access under principles of equity, universality and affordability while ensuring that security, interoperability, the protection of personal data and respect for human rights including gender equality are built into global connectivity."* (G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué, op39)