

27th Latin American Model of United Nations

Committee: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Delegation: State of Japan

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Topic: Greening Development in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Over the last two decades, EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia) countries have been exposed to an extremely dynamic context, marked by intensive institution building, deep economic and social transformation and rapid integration into the global economy. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development facilitates the reforms and also is monitoring trends in the process of greening development and environmental policy integration in the EECCA since the beginning of their transition to a market economy in the early 1990s.

While the models of growth and development keep eroding the stocks of natural assets and undermine the integrity of ecosystem services, risks are rising. When States are not owners of well-elaborated policies, they should expect to pay more in the future, taking in consideration general aspects as economy and society. This specifically refers to the lack of action: a worse manage of natural capital will result in increasing costs of substituting it with other forms of productive capital. Moreover, policy needs to take account of evidence that changes in ecosystems, and their capacity to support growth, do not necessarily follow a smooth, foreseeable trajectory. New patterns of production and consumption, as well as new approaches for defining growth and measuring human progress, are required.

The strategies for greening development aim to foster economic growth and social development by providing material inputs and services on which our economies rely. The green renovation can bring constructive outcomes, such as: enhanced productivity and innovation, creation of new jobs and markets, and fiscal revenue generation. To enable greener growth, market signals and policies must catalyze investment and innovation into new ways of sustainably managing natural capital and extracting higher, long-term benefits from its use.

The need for further socio-economic developments in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia provides a solid argument for executing green growth strategies. Over twenty years of transition, most EECCA countries have opened their economies. The competitiveness of these economies, however, still needs important improvement and

orientation towards future rather than past growth models, which were often based on natural resource rents.

Japan puts green development at the center of plans to revive a country's growth. It is also necessary to focus on fast-growth sectors, including renewable energy, green vehicles, farming and healthcare; also, renewable technologies will drive its competitiveness.

Japan considers there are four areas where policy actions may be particularly important: *Meeting the emerging job-skill requirements of a greening economy*, for example, labor-intensive sectors such as construction and agriculture will need to significantly change production methods as they move toward environmental sustainability. *Assuring a just transition to green growth*, while the benefits of a transition towards green growth should be broadly shared, there is a risk that the costs of the transition could fall disproportionately on certain labor force groups, households and localities. *Assuring worker's rights in growing green sectors, while seizing opportunities to promote social inclusion*, assuring worker's rights in line with international labour standards in growing green sectors while promoting high-quality jobs is also a key to achieving just transition. And last, but not least, *the greening of enterprises*, referring to the promotion and implementation of sustainable production and consumption patterns within the enterprise level.

The investment in renewable energy will have a positive long-term effect considering that it is going to decrease the environmental debt in the future by reducing the fossil fuel subsidies and also achieve a cleaner work environment and lessen the emission of greenhouse gasses.

Moreover, taking under consideration the situation of the planet in which natural resources are more frequently used and that many countries have no access to some of them it is our duty to implement education as a new resource in our planet, so that future generations have the ability to explore what a country possesses and finds the necessary means to cover the demand of those resources which they lack.

Nowadays we need to understand that not only must we leave a better planet for our children, we also need to leave better children for our planet.