Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan

to the Republic of Zambia at FYNEP Learning Event

on Tuesday 12 June 2018

Dr. Musonda Rosemary Sunkutu, Senior Population, Health and Nutrition Specialist, World Bank,

Mr. Richard Mwape, Country Manager, Concern Worldwide Zambia,

Senior Government Officials,

The Event Participants,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this Zambia Female Youth Livelihood and Nutrition Enhancement Project (FYNEP) Learning Event.

We admire the activities of Concern Worldwide, which has its headquarters in Ireland, and is working in 28 countries including Zambia, to address the issues relating to poverty and to overcome them.

In Zambia, its members have been working since 2002 in such fields as HIV/AIDS, agriculture, livelihood support, and food safety, among others.

FYNEP in which they have been engaged for 3 years from 2015 in Limulunga and Kaoma Districts of Western Province, has been financially supported by the World Bank’s Japan Social Development Fund.

Thus I have been invited to speak here now.

The Government of Japan contributed 10 billion Japanese Yen or about 95 million US Dollars to the World Bank in 2000, for the Bank to provide grants in support of community-driven development and poverty reduction projects that empower the poorest and most vulnerable groups not reached by other programs and improve their lives through direct benefits.

As Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am glad to have learned that a grant of about 3 million US Dollars was extended from the Japan Social Development Fund in the World Bank for the implementation of a project in Zambia, FYNEP.

I have heard that FYNEP benefited a total of more than 7,000 women and girls of ages between 10 and 21, among other beneficiaries, in Western Province.

Congratulations!

FYNEP is a success story of cooperation among all people concerned for this project, in Ireland, Zambia, the World Bank and Japan.

And we are proud to be a part of this success story.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to all people and organizations concerned for FYNEP, and urge all stakeholders for development of Zambia,

to learn from FYNEP, and make their respective contributions for Zambia to become a prosperous middle income country.

Thank you.