

Monsieur le Représentant du Ministre de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire ;

Mme la Représentant du Ministre des Relations Exterieures ;

Monsieur le Représentant Résident ad interim du PNUD ;

Mesdames et Messieurs en vos rangs et titres respectifs ;

C'est un grand honneur et un réel plaisir pour moi d'assister à cette cérémonie de signature d'échange de notes de la phase 2 du projet porté par le PNUD Cameroun, relatif à la reconstruction de la région du sud-ouest par la réhabilitation de centres de santé et de points d'eau.

Let me start by conveying my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development for its strong support extended to Japan in her engagement with Cameroonian economic development. And I thank the kind presence of the representative of Ministry of External Relations. I would also like to commend the UNDP Cameroon team for its effective partnership with Japan in our successful implementation of many development and assistance projects including the Phase 1 of the Project for Recovery in the South-west Region through Rehabilitation of Health Centers and Water Points.

My predecessor Ambassador Osawa had signed these Exchanges of Notes for the Phase I back in February 2021. Then, South-west region was facing many problems including forced displacement of people and widespread damages to its facilities, none of which have been solved up to this date, undermining people's livelihoods and dignity.

In response to these dire situations, the Japanese Government has decided to finance again, with an amount of 300 million Yen, equivalent to 2.2 million USD, the implementation of the «Project for Recovery in the South-west Region through Rehabilitation of Health Centers and Water Points (Phase 2) » supported in collaboration with UNDP.

As is highlighted during the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), held in Tunisia in August 2022, the Government of Japan attaches great importance to the enhancement of human security and in this vein, will continue to finance the projects which should benefit the lives and welfare of the local people of Cameroon.

I am confident that, with the professional experience displayed during the Phase I by the UNDP, Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE), Ministry of Water and Energy (MINEE), Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF), Ministry of External Relations (MINREX), this project

will again meet the basic needs of the vulnerable people, helping them establish their livelihoods and shape a better future.

Before closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the people who are engaged in the realization of the project from phase 1 to phase 2, including the National Coordinator and the local staff I look forward to seeing this project further contribute to improving lives of people affected by the security crisis and to reinforcing the ties between the Republic of Cameroon, UNDP and Japan.

Thank you very much for your attention.