

**Video statement by H.E. Mr. WASHIO Eiichiro,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian
Crisis in Yemen (March 1, 2021)**

I am Washio Eiichiro, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. I would like to thank the Government of Sweden, the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations for organizing this event. We would also like to express our respect for UN and other aid workers who are operating under the extremely difficult environment.

Long-standing conflict in Yemen has been causing “the world’s worst humanitarian crisis”. The international community must continue supporting the people of Yemen, who are facing imminent danger of famine and infectious diseases.

Japan, as a major donor country, will continue to contribute to improving the humanitarian situation in Yemen. In 2020, we pledged 41.2 million US dollars of assistance to Yemen in areas such as food, refugees and health, and we have disbursed all of them by the end of the year.

Under the principles of "human security" and in accordance with the "leaving no one behind" policy of the SDGs, Japan has already decided to provide at least 49 million US dollars in 2021. We hope that this assistance will contribute to the mitigation of the social-economic impact of the COVID-19 and the food crisis in Yemen, helping Yemeni refugees and strengthening its health systems.

In addition, Japan will continue its own support of "investing in people" with an aim of medium and long-term development of Yemen. We will resume initiatives such as human resource development training by JICA and Japanese Government Scholarships, taking COVID-19 situation into consideration.

In order to end the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen, now is the time to heighten the momentum towards the political solution and have the parties to take constructive steps.

There is no military solution to the Yemeni conflict, but a political solution through dialogue among Yemeni people. From this perspective, the Government of Japan supports all the efforts by Mr. Martin Griffiths, Special Envoy of UN Secretary-General.

Taking this opportunity, Japan again calls on all parties for immediate ceasefire and early start of dialogue for political solution to the situation in Yemen. Japan strongly condemns repeated cross-border attacks against civilian infrastructure by the Houthis. These attacks must be stopped immediately, and impeding humanitarian efforts is unacceptable.

Japan remains committed to continuously making both humanitarian and political efforts, in cooperation with countries concerned, to realize peace and stability in Yemen.

END