



**Statement by H.E. Mr. ISHIKANE Kimihiro  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations  
ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2020**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank Morocco for organizing the Humanitarian Affairs Segment under the current unprecedented circumstances. I would also like to pay tribute to the large numbers of humanitarian workers who have shown their unwavering dedication to lifesaving activities for people in vulnerable situations around the world, particularly in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The dire humanitarian situations caused by conflicts, natural disasters and economic shocks are at the risk of being exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. It poses a serious threat to human security, bringing widespread and multi-faceted negative impacts to the survival, livelihood and dignity of people.

Determined to play its part in the international fight against COVID-19, and in response to the UN's appeal for humanitarian assistance, Japan decided as early as in March to provide 140 million US dollars through six international organizations for technical and other assistance for medical professionals and others. In April, Japan further decided to provide additional assistance of over 1.4 billion US dollars to strengthen the capacity in the health and medical fields, and increase flow of medical and other supplies in developing countries. On 4 June, Japan pledged 300 million US dollars at the Global Vaccine Summit in order to accelerate access to vaccines.

Fully aware that the COVID-19 response should not be taken at the expense of people already suffering from existing humanitarian crises, Japan pledged 41.2 million US dollars at last week's High-level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. It includes approximately 34 million US dollars for broader humanitarian purposes such as food, refugee assistance, health care and governance. We call on others to do the same.

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to other issues of Japan's concern, namely, gender equality, protection of civilians and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Japan reaffirms its unwavering commitment in this area, and continues to work with partners such as UN-Women, the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), and the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. For example, Japan implements the G7's WPS Partnership Initiative through UN Women by assisting the Government of Sri Lanka in developing its WPS National Action Plan. As part of its contribution to COVID-19 response, Japan allocated 4.5 million US dollars to UN Women's regional response projects.

The people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence are again, most vulnerable to COVID-19. Japan strongly urges all parties to armed conflict to respond to the Secretary-General's call for a ceasefire and allow humanitarian personnel unfettered access to the people in need.

Japan is actively engaged in the operational activities to help civilians affected by armed conflict. With a view to ensuring human security, one of the pillars of Japan's development cooperation policy, Japan has always prioritized protection and empowerment of those affected by armed conflict, in particular refugees and internally displaced persons. At the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama last August, Japan, together with African countries and international donors, committed to supporting efforts for strengthening the self-reliance and resilience of displaced populations and host communities. Important part of Japan's contribution related to COVID-19 will be used to support the population suffering from armed conflict and other situations of violence in the Middle East and Africa.

Mr. President,

The late Madame OGATA Sadako, who passed away last October, served as the High Commissioner for Refugees during the last ten years of the last century and later headed Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for over eight years. She was a strong advocate of the concept of human security and the humanitarian-development nexus. The "gap" between humanitarian intervention during conflicts, and the beginning of long-term development programmes may have shrunk compared to the 1990's, but we should never forget the perspective of the most vulnerable people and deliver accordingly.

The human security approach that Madame Ogata advocated calls for people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people and all communities. The ultimate objective is to ensure freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity. Japan continues to call on all the humanitarian, development and peace actors of the UN to work under the "triple nexus" toward achieving this goal.

Thank you very much.