

Official Statement by the Government of Japan ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2021

Japan welcomes the appointment of Mr. Martin Griffiths as the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and appreciates his valuable leadership as the former Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Yemen.

More than a year has passed since the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need for humanitarian assistance continues to increase.

Ensuring equitable access to vaccines everywhere in the world, including in developing countries, is key to overcoming health crises, in particular the recent COVID-19 pandemic. This month Japan co-hosted the COVAX AMC Summit, which contributed to secure financial commitments well beyond this year's target. Japan also announced an additional contribution of 800 million USD at the Summit. It is of utmost importance to deliver vaccines to each and every person in need, as well as to manufacture, procure, and allocate vaccines in each country.

In this regard, Japan decided to provide assistance of approximately 80 million USD to support the cold chain system through its "Last One Mile Support". Since March 2021, in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Japan has provided 56 countries with equipment, including vaccine carrier boxes and transportation vehicles to deliver vaccines to immunization sites in each country in a way that is complementary to the COVAX Facility.

Multifaceted and interrelated threats of COVID-19 have given adverse impacts on the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of people all around the world and led to a human security crisis.

It is time to reinvigorate the concept of human security in order to overcome this crisis and achieve the SDGs by addressing global challenges such as worsening climate change.

Based on this conviction, last September, at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Suga proposed to tap into the wisdom from around the world to deepen discussions on human security in the new era.

With a view to ensuring human security, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is also a key concept. In order to address the socio-economic impacts of the recent pandemic, climate change-induced natural disasters, and increasing forced displacement, it is necessary to implement assistance to ensure prevention-oriented approaches, and to strengthen the capacities and resilience of people and communities. In the long term, it is also necessary to focus on strengthening synergy between humanitarian and development actors.

Furthermore, as humanitarian needs have been on the rise, both development perspectives to stabilize people's livelihoods and peacebuilding approaches for conflict resolution are needed more than ever to address the root causes of crises. In this respect, Japan remains committed to implementing projects in coordination with humanitarian and development organizations both the mid-and-long term perspectives.

From our experience in responding to COVID-19, we have once again realized the importance of achieving Universal Health Coverage, which Japan has been spearheading in the international community. We are also reminded of the need to strengthen health systems, and create a social environment that is resilient to infectious diseases through improved nutrition, water, and sanitation. Based on these lessons, Japan will host the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 in December 2021, in response to the serious malnutrition caused by hindered food access due to COVID-19. One of the commitment areas of the Summit is “Resilience: Addressing malnutrition effectively in fragile and conflict affected contexts”. The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, in partnership with the UN Food Systems Summit, will serve as an opportunity to mobilize resources within the international community.

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