

Tuesday, 25 March 2021

Agenda Item 3: Linking national, regional, and global dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In line with this agenda item, titled, Linking National, Regional, and Global Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, allow me, first, to speak of Japan's "national dimension" in tackling the 2030 Agenda. After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, in order to promote the SDGs in a comprehensive and effective manner, the government of Japan established the **SDG Promotion Headquarters** in the following year (2016), headed by the Prime Minister with the participation of all Ministers. The Headquarters subsequently formulated the SDGs implementation Guiding Principles, and continue to decide the SDGs Action Plan on a yearly basis, compiling the government's key initiatives toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Concerning our efforts in cooperation at both regional and global levels, in response to the rapid global spread of COVID-19 since early 2020, international cooperation was promptly launched. We are aware that cooperation and collaboration at both the regional and the global level are essential to truly eliminate the threat of infectious diseases. Last March we promptly provided assistance of approximately 138 million US dollars to the projects implemented by the WHO, UNICEF, and other organizations to Iran and neighboring countries suffering from Covid-19. Following that, last May, the government of Japan provided assistance totally 863 million US dollars to countries in Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, and Africa to prevent the spread of infection with the provision of supplies such as protective clothing and disinfectants and of training for medical and health personnel, and awareness-raising on infection risks.

In addition, Japan places emphasis on ensuring equal access to vaccines, including in developing countries, in order to tackle COVID-19. From this perspective, at the Global Vaccine Summit held in June 2020, Japan pledged 300 million US dollars to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Lastly but not the least, let me reiterate Japan will be working with both the regional and international community, mindful of the ideals of SDGs, to step up our efforts more than before.

Thank you.