

Agenda item 3

Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

Country interventions - Japan

Thank you, chairperson, for giving us the floor.

First of all, let me express our sincere appreciation for the insightful and informative remarks of the Ministerial round table.

I would now like to reiterate Japan's commitment to supporting the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Pacific Island Developing States. Japan is willing to play an active role in The Fifth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in 2023, the Third Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024 /and the Fourth Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024.

Today, due to limited time, our intervention will be focused on Japan's latest actions in the Pacific islands countries/ as part of Japan's assistance to Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Pacific Island Developing States.

First, regarding our support to contain the spread of COVID-19. Japan will provide up to 1.5 billion USD to COVAX facility for equitable access of developing countries to COVID-19 vaccine. Japan has provided Kiribati, Samoa, Solomons, Tonga and Fiji with approximately 340,000 doses of vaccines via the COVAX facility. In addition, Japan is contributing to the strengthening of health and medical care systems throughout the Pacific region by providing health and medical equipment, establishing cold chains to deliver vaccine.

Second, concerning the enhanced digitalization which the Summary of ESCAP report mentioned. In the Asia-Pacific region, there are more than 2 billion people who are unable to use the Internet due to weak infrastructure and limited financial resources. In the ASEAN region and the Pacific island countries, Japan has been supporting the development of low-cost, high-speed Internet access environments in remote islands and remote areas. On December 12, 2021, Japan, the United States, Australia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, and Nauru issued a joint media statement on "IMPROVING EAST MICRONESIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIVITY".

By providing funding to build a new undersea cable, this project, in cooperation with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, will support increased economic growth, drive development opportunities, and help to improve living standards as the region recovers from the severe impacts of COVID-19.

Japan will continue to support the development of quality infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region in order to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), needless to say our strong commitment to “No one is left behind”. Thank you very much.