Japan

Item 3a)

Many countries are deploring the very low fertility but Japan is not the exception. Together with COVID-19 influence, the Japanese total fertility rate in 2022 recorded 1.26 the lowest in the history. Extra dimensional measures to mitigate the low fertility is now being implemented. Also, a new dedicated government body, the Child and Family Agency was inaugurated April this year. We tended to allocate more social security measures to older generation but now, the policy focus is to cover all generations and promote support from each other.

Japan is a super-aged society and the sustainability of pension system is one of the most crucial aspects. Financial verification on public pension fund is conducted every five years so that it will be sustainable for 100 years. Regarding pension system, it is an important element to maximize the demographic dividend. Back in 1961, we achieved universal health coverage but also universal pension. The pension premium collected from everybody was used as a source of domestic public investment for infrastructure, education, health and so forth. Likely, the countries which are now enjoying the demographic dividend could also use their own potential by operating well-managed pension systems to invest themselves for development.

In the region, in addition to the Arabic Gulf countries, Japan and South Korea are becoming destination countries for migrants. The SDG target 10.7 “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people”, should always be kept in mind and migrants’ right are to be well guaranteed. Since 2018, Japan created a new visa category of specified skilled workers, which is based on bilateral agreements to promote win-win migration and also implemented the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” to promote the social integration of foreign nationals living in Japan.