Japan statement: Mr. Toru Terai, First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative of Japan to ESCAP

Thank you, chair for giving us the opportunity to share challenges facing Japan and the latest Government actions in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on ageing.

Japan’s aging rate was 28.9% as of 2021, the highest level in the world. As the aging of society is expected to continue in the future, taking effective measures against the issues of aging has become critical on the policy side.

Let me introduce some situations in Japan.

First of all, while both life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are expanding, the gap between them has not been narrowed.

Second, looking at trends in the elderly population by city size, the population growth for the aged 65 and older tends to be greater in larger cities.

Third, as the number of elderly people living alone is expected to increase protecting them from social isolation is imperative. In addition, now in Japan, many people in the middle of their careers have to sacrifice their work to care for their elderly parents, so out-sourcing nursing services should be an option.

Finally, on the other hand, in recent years, the employment rate of the elderly has also been on an upward trend, and more elderly people are continuing in active work. Under these circumstances, the Government of Japan has established “The Guideline of Measures for Ageing Society” based on the Basic Act on Measures for the Aging Society as a basic and comprehensive guideline to be promoted for countering the aging society and the Government Japan is promoting the creation of a society in which "all citizens are dynamically engaged," work style reforms, and employment support for the elderly aged 65 and over.

Thank you for your attention.