

Speech by State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Mr. SUZUKI Keisuke

Check Against Delivery

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to address you at this closing plenary session. I express my sincere appreciation for the initiative taken by UNHCR and Switzerland in co-hosting this Forum.

The latest data shows a huge gap between global resettlement needs and the actual number of resettlement places, even though recognition of the protection needs of refugees has been increasing. A huge gap also remains between the total funding required and actual funds contributed. These kinds of evidence-based reflections provide important insights for finding refugee solutions.

Japan's recent actions include (1) the expansion of refugee resettlement in terms of both numbers and target population, (2) the extension of educational opportunities to Syrian students as announced in 2016, and (3) a decision to take comprehensive measures for the acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals residing in Japan.

In terms of burden- and responsibility-sharing, Japan will continue to provide assistance to refugees and affected populations in regions such as the Middle East and Africa. As we go about this work, we will keep in mind the approach of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus and draw on our experiences in providing development assistance.

The HDP-nexus approach is closely linked with the concept of Human Security, as advocated by Madame Sadako Ogata and backed by the Government of Japan for more than 20 years. I am happy to see that the approach is widely accepted by many of us now.

An important part of the nexus approach is involving a wide range of stakeholders. In Japan, civil society stakeholders hosted multi-stakeholder consultations for the GCR and GRF prior to this Forum to promote a whole-of-society approach.

Increasing awareness of refugee issues throughout society is also an important aspect of the nexus. Next summer, Japan will host the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and will welcome a refugee team to compete at the Games. Japan will take this opportunity to raise awareness and deepen understanding on refugee issues in Japan and around the world.

Lastly, the Government of Japan will continue to support refugees and affected populations in partnership with the international community and organizations such as UNHCR.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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