

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges
Comments by Japan for the meeting on 21 October

- Japan appreciates UNHCR providing us with the opportunity to reflect on the unprecedented challenges caused by COVID-19 and share lessons learned through our experience of responding to the pandemic. We strongly hope that the High Commissioner's dialogue this year will provide both UNHCR and Member States with the guiding principles needed to prepare for and respond to future crises, including the possibility of another pandemic.
- The current pandemic has of course been presenting all of us with many challenges. Among other issues, Japan is seriously concerned by the socio-economic consequences that have disproportionately impacted persons of concern. We have seen that those who had been self-reliant for many years were the first to lose their livelihoods following the lockdown. This has been a strong reminder to us of the fragility of the socio-economic status of persons of concern.
- Cash assistance is an efficient tool in responding to economic needs in the short-term. From the long-term perspective, however, it is more important to provide support for enhanced resilience of host countries and communities, and refugees.
- In this connection, we expect that the multi-year planning approach aligned with national and UN development plans will enable UNHCR to enhance planning for supporting host countries to build inclusive national systems. We underline the importance of such systems providing support in the areas of education, employment and livelihoods, and social safety nets.
- Japan encourages UNHCR to utilize the multi-year planning approach to support host countries and refugees in building resilience, and facilitate inclusive national systems in an efficient and effective manner. With these purposes in mind, how can UNHCR maximize its impacts through the multi-year planning approach?