

74th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee (9–13 October 2023)

**Statement by Ambassador HONSEI Kozo, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan
Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva**

Thank you, Mr./ Madam Chair,
Mr. High Commissioner,
Excellencies, dear colleagues,

At the outset, Japan offers its condolences to all those bereaved by the clashes between Israel and the Palestinian militants. We would also like to express our heartfelt sympathy to all those affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan.

The High Commissioner's statement is a stark reminder of the severity of the humanitarian situation around the globe. Japan is deeply concerned about the fact that the number of forcibly displaced people due to conflict, violence, human rights violation, and persecution, continues to increase year by year, and that these crises have become increasingly prolonged. Today's crises are also multilayered: a clear example of this being how Russia's ongoing and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine has further aggravated the global food security crisis, especially in developing and least developed countries.

Mr./ Madam Chair,

As global displacement hits unprecedented levels, there is a need for more innovative approaches to identifying sustainable solutions for people forced to flee. While it is essential to promptly provide emergency humanitarian assistance, it is equally important to provide mid- to long-term development cooperation to meet the needs of both displaced persons and their host communities in a more sustainable manner until solutions can be found. In addition, these efforts should be linked to peacebuilding efforts that tackle challenges in countries of origin and promote the achievement of durable solutions.

Such complementary initiatives in humanitarian, development and peace contexts will enable us to realize human security for refugees and host communities.

To achieve this end, Japan is a firm proponent of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach. And we believe that the Second Global Refugee Forum in December can serve as a significant milestone in promoting this approach. As such, Japan has launched a multi-stakeholder pledge to strengthen the HDP Nexus together with interested partners, and is looking forward to working closely with interested stakeholders.

(check against delivery)

Mr. High Commissioner, during the opening session of this conference, you emphasized the importance of a whole-of-society approach in addressing the refugee crisis. The HDP Nexus Multi-Stakeholder Pledge embodies the whole-of-society approach in that it serves as a platform where each actor can contribute their respective capabilities to support the achievement of the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Mr./ Madam Chair,

Japan shares concerns about the growing gap between needs and funding in relation to several ongoing humanitarian crises. Therefore, as Chair of the G7 Hiroshima Summit, we promoted discussion among the members of multiple humanitarian crises taking place worldwide. In the same vein, we believe that the GRF in December should also be utilized as an opportunity to draw global attention to crises that often receive limited coverage in the media.

We also see the value of flexible funding in response to underfunded crises. The Japanese government revised its Development Cooperation Charter this year, announcing its policy to provide quality and flexible funding when necessary.

Mr./ Madam Chair,

Conscious of these issues, Japan continues to provide the maximum possible cooperation for UNHCR. For this reason, the Government of Japan has made efforts to secure 13% more budget in Japanese yen for the period from January to September this year than the entire budget for last year. We also acknowledge, with appreciation, UNHCR's initiative to increase the efficiency of organizational and operational costs through the Business Transformation and UN Fleet initiatives, among others.

Mr./ Madam Chair,

The High Commissioner also underlined the need for burden- and responsibility-sharing to address humanitarian crises. Recognizing this need, Japan extends its appreciation to all refugee-hosting countries for their longstanding generosity and we would like to reconfirm our continuing strong commitment to supporting refugees and affected populations.

The Second GRF will be a key moment for international solidarity. Japan, as a co-convenor, has been working together with members of the Asia-Pacific Region to ensure the Forum's success with the strong hope that the Forum will lead to the swift resolution of multiple humanitarian crises around the world.

Finally, we appreciate the High Commissioner's upcoming visit to Tokyo next week, which we are sure will help to facilitate our preparations for the GRF.

Thank you.