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Opening remarks by Ambassador HONSEI Kozo,
Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva
at the second quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on
Refugees in 2024

Thank you, Assistant High Commissioner Menikdiwela,
Excellencies and dear colleagues,

I am honored to co-chair today's **quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees**, following our first meeting in March, co-chaired by the Ambassador of Switzerland.

As co-convenor of **the Second Global Refugee Forum**, Japan remains committed to the GRF process, and I am therefore pleased to chair today's discussion.

Six months have passed since the GRF. Many of us needed time to recover from the hard work of the GRF, but now is the time to rekindle our passion and put words into action. There are enormous numbers of refugees and IDPs who continue to suffer in this complex international context.

I remember a statement from one of the refugee host countries made last year: "The GRF takes place once every four years, but we receive refugees every day." That is the reality on the ground. Faced with this situation, we must reaffirm our solidarity.

I also remember a statement made by a refugee host country. We usually use the terminology of donor and host countries. But host countries are providing massive amounts from their budgets, and not only money, but also human resources, land, social services, education, and housing. Bangladesh is hosting about one million displaced Rohingya people. Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye have been hosting large numbers of displaced people

for decades. The same can be said for Lebanon, Jordan, Colombia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Chad, and Kenya, among other countries. We sincerely thank the host countries for their continued generosity.

The key issue today is to **ease the pressure on host countries**. This is one of the pillars of **the Global Compact on Refugees**, and we need to use the mechanism of the GRF to translate the principles of the Compact into action. The GRF last December was an opportunity to share **the burden and responsibility among all stakeholders**.

Forty-seven multi-stakeholder pledges were launched at the GRF. These multistakeholder pledges, or MSPs, demonstrate our solidarity and collective commitment, and provide common guidance for the next major milestone—**the High-Level Officials Meeting in December 2025**.

Today, we have the opportunity to hear about progress and follow-up on several MSPs.

Please allow me to talk a little about Japan's initiatives. Japan has been co-leading **the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Multistakeholder Pledge**. After the GRF, the MSP had two roundtables to discuss HDP Nexus approaches in different contexts. I would like to thank **UNDP**, another co-leader of the MSP, for its facilitating role. I also appreciate UNDP Administrator Achim Steinar's briefing in Geneva earlier this month, during which he highlighted the importance of the HDP Nexus. We also thank the other members of the MSP for their active engagement.

From the perspective of Japan's own efforts to strengthen the Nexus, Japan has already begun to implement its pledges, in particular from the perspective of the **Women, Peace and Security (WPS) approach**, which we consider to be essential when considering solutions for refugees and displaced persons.

In **Bangladesh**, we have initiated several projects in cooperation with various international organizations such as WFP, IOM, UN Women, and UNICEF. We are supporting education and vocational training for both displaced people and host communities, working to enhance women's

livelihood skills, and taking measures to improve sanitation and hygiene. Moreover, JICA recently dispatched an advisor to the ministry concerned with promoting the HDP Nexus approach in Bangladesh.

In **Iran**, we launched an education and health project with UNHCR for both host communities and refugees.

In **Africa**, in addition to Uganda and Zambia, a Nexus expert of **JICA** will be sent from Japan to Kenya soon as part of our support for refugee hosting countries at the policy and strategic levels. In this regard, Japan has supported UNHCR in establishing an emergency training center for humanitarian personnel in Africa, the **eCentre for Africa**. The first training session was successfully held in Kenya last month with the participation of 12 African countries. We are also continuing our cooperation with African countries through the **Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD**, which will be held in Japan next year.

Not only the Government, but also **private companies and NGOs** have increased their contributions. Several Japanese NGOs have adopted HDP Nexus approaches and are promoting social cohesion, education, and livelihood opportunities in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.

We recognize that the **self-reliance** of displaced people is the key to addressing humanitarian crises. Together with **investment in local communities**, it **alleviates the economic burden of host countries**, it **stimulates the local economy**, and most importantly, it serves to expand the **future possibilities** for forcibly displaced people themselves. I quote Japan's Foreign Minister Kamikawa's statement at the GRF:

“I believe that we must all envision a future where each and every refugee and displaced person can talk about their dreams, and have opportunities to work hard to make their dreams come true.”

This is exactly why I have taken this opportunity to reiterate the importance for the international community of taking a whole-of-society approach, as we have seen at the GRF, to build self-reliance and invest in local

communities. Let's keep that momentum going. I would also like to encourage all stakeholders to implement their pledges to achieve tangible results before the next GRF in 2027.

Resettlement and complementary pathways are also another means to ease the pressure on host countries. I applaud the success of the **Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways (CRCP) 2024**, chaired early this month by **Australia**.

An important aspect of easing pressure on host countries is "**Pledge Matching**." Matching pledges of financial, material, and technical support with host countries' needs facilitates a more favorable protection environment. I think MSPs could provide good opportunities to seek such "matching." As part of the work for the HDP Nexus MSP, we want to have a session with host countries to learn about their policy commitments and needs, so that many stakeholders around the world could consider providing support in line with host country policies. We also invite interested stakeholders to join the MSP to promote this approach globally together.

I am sure the proponents of other MSPs will have good examples to share, so I am looking forward to hearing more later today.

But first, I would like to hand over to Assistant High Commissioner Menikdiwela for her remarks.