

(As delivered)

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President, for giving me the floor.
Good Morning from Tokyo,
Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan was among the first countries to decide to provide support for responding to COVID-19 pandemic through international organizations as early as March last year.

In line with this, Japan provided 6 million US Dollars to the IOM to support border management authorities and vulnerable people displaced by COVID-19 in nine countries, including Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

These assistance mainly focus on 4 areas.

1. Coordination with related organizations and ministries
2. Risk communication activities
3. Surveillance including assessment of returning migrants
4. Support for preparedness and response to the COVID-19 at Points of Entry.

More concretely, these include

Distribution of PPE and disinfectant at border points

Distribution of sanitary kits and food to returning migrants at isolation facilities

Repair of medical facilities around the border.

On the other hand, due to the spread of the COVID-19, the project period has been extended from the original plan in every country.

Such examples of stagnant progress include

Delayed cases due to difficulty in access to the borders by IOM staffs caused by lockdown restrictions, and

Cases that the school, which has been used as detention facilities for quarantine during temporary closure, became unavailable due to the resumption of classes. Which result in urgent need for setting up new isolation facilities.

Therefore, Japan believes it seems necessary to give some flexibility to the future COVID-19 support plan, because it is difficult to predict in advance when and how long the lockdown measures will take place,

Finally, Japan would also like to touch upon the importance of Human Security.

Vulnerable populations are greatly affected by Covid-19, and efforts must be made to realize a society where "leave no one behind".

It is important to protect vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees, and to empower them. This approach based on the concept of "human security" should be promoted.

I thank you, Mr. Vice-President.