Statement by Ms. OKADA Keiko,

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at the International Migration Review Forum: General Debate

Japan welcomes the holding of this International Migration Review Forum. We would also like to thank IOM, the coordinator of the United Nations Migration Network, for conducting the Forum.

Human mobility around the world is still greatly affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In particular, the Pandemic has affected vulnerable people including migrants disproportionately. In addition to COVID-19, various humanitarian crises such as the situation in Ukraine and climate change have caused serious problems related to migration and displacement in many parts of the world. With increasing needs for support for vulnerable people, the importance of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), which includes objectives such as dealing with the structural factors underlying migration, saving the lives of migrants, and strengthening global partnerships, has become more important than ever before.

Japan places the principle of human security as one of the major pillars of its diplomacy, and it goes without saying that consideration of migrants and displaced people is indispensable for the realization of a "society that leaves no one behind" which reflects the principle of human security. The GCM, which embodies international cooperation to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration and the principle of human security, as well as the SDGs share the same goals. Japan will continue to make feasible efforts for those goals.

Specifically, in order to tackle the problem of climate change, which is one of the causes of forced migration, Japan announced last June our commitment to provide both public and private funds totaling approximately 60 billion USD in climate finance over five years from 2021 to 2025. In addition, last November, Japan announced the provision of up to 10 billion USD in additional climate finance, both public and private, in the same period. These are the largest scale supports among developed countries.

Furthermore, Japan attaches great significance to ensuring equitable access to vaccines in order to overcome COVID-19 at a global level, and we are strongly committed to achieving universal health coverage based on the principle of "leaving no one's health behind". In this connection, Japan's assistance to developing countries in response to COVID-19 have totaled about 4.5 billion US dollars so far. After including our additional commitments of up to 500 million US dollars to COVAX, our total commitments to respond to COVID-19 add up to 5 billion USD.

Moreover, in response to the urgent need for humanitarian assistance due to the displacement of many millions of people in Ukraine and neighboring countries, Japan has provided a total of 200 million US dollars through international organizations such as IOM and others.

These supports contribute to the objectives of the GCM, such as dealing with the causes of forced migration and promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration. Japan, as a member of the international community, will continue to cooperate to address the various challenges associated with migration around the world in order to achieve the objectives of the GCM.

Thank you.