

Pledging Statement by Prime Minister SUGA
at COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Summit

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,
Now is the time for us to act.

I am determined to lead collective efforts of the international community to achieve our goal.

Japan has led the discussion to establish the COVAX Facility mechanism. Japan was the first country to actually disburse its contribution to the COVAX Facility, amounting to 200 million USD so far.

Today, I am happy to announce that we will make an additional contribution of 800 million USD, which brings the total contribution of 1 billion USD to the COVAX Facility.

This is an unprecedented and largest ever contribution to the COVAX Facility from Japan, which accounts for a large part of the remaining funding gap.

Additionally, considering the harsh reality of the spread of new variants and lagging vaccine supply, I am pleased to announce that, when circumstances allow, and at an appropriate time, Japan intends to provide around 30 million doses of vaccines manufactured in Japan, including through the COVAX Facility, to other countries and regions.

I made this decision, hoping to deliver vaccines, a ray of hope, to as many people as possible, and as early as possible,

throughout the world, in an equitable manner.

Moreover, based on the new national strategy that was set yesterday, Japan will contribute to forming a global consensus on the evaluation method for new vaccines. We will also continue to work on the development and production of COVID-19 vaccines in Japan through a public-private partnership, and intend to deliver them to the world in the future.

Under this new strategy, Japan will also strengthen research and development of innovative vaccines, as well as work on improving the clinical trial environment including through capacity building support, in order to prepare for future pandemics.

In addition, we will continue to support the delivery of vaccines down to the last person through Japan's "Last One Mile Support," including improving cold chains, leveraging our strength we have gained through our experiences in health and medical related assistance.

Through such multilayered cooperation, we will contribute to accelerating equitable access to safe and effective vaccines, catering to the needs of the world including developing countries in particular.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

The lofty goal of delivering 1.8 billion doses for nearly 30% of the population of AMC-eligible economies cannot be met by one

country alone.

I hope to see the circle of cooperation grow, as a proof of international solidarity.

Thank you very much for your attention.