

COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Summit  
Opening Remarks by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu  
(June 2, Wednesday)

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. Thank you for joining the COVAX AMC Summit. One year has passed since the launch of the COVAX Facility. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts by Gavi, each country and organization.

We are now at a critical moment in our fight against the pandemic, and the role of COVAX has become increasingly important. Thank you again for your strong commitment to meet the expectations.

The situation surrounding COVID-19 in the world continues to be challenging, but there is also encouraging news in these difficult times. That is, just like you, who are present at this Summit today, more countries and organizations have joined COVAX and made greater contributions, gathering great momentum toward the goal of ensuring equitable access to vaccines.

In April, the US Government and Gavi co-hosted the Gavi COVAX One World Protected Event, which raised 350 million USD. I would like to express my respect for the leadership of the US Government in this regard.

As participants in COVAX, we are committed to securing 1.8 billion doses of vaccines to cover 30% of the population of AMC-eligible economies and to delivering them to those who are waiting for vaccines in the world. To fulfill this goal, there was a funding gap of \$1.7 billion USD at the end of the Gavi COVAX AMC One World Protected Event in April.

There is a need to close the funding gap as soon as possible. I look forward to further cooperation from you at today's Summit. Consequently, I firmly believe that we will find ourselves at the next stage in securing equitable access to vaccines, two hours from now.

Now, I have a great pleasure of introducing the co-host of today's Summit, H.E. Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, Prime Minister, to deliver the opening address.