

**Statement by Mr. MIYAKE Shingo,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the UN Online Event for the World Tsunami Awareness Day
(5 November 2021)**

Distinguished guests and participants from all over the world,

I am MIYAKE SHINGO, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is a great honor to participate in this online event marking World Tsunami Awareness Day 2021 and to make a few remarks on behalf of the Government of Japan. Before I begin, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. MIZUTORI Mami, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR. I would also like to thank all other fellow Member States and relevant UN agencies for their efforts in bringing us together to discuss how we can enhance international cooperation in reducing tsunami risks.

The main topic of today's online event is "Leveraging the Power of Science and Technology to Reduce Tsunami Risk." The role of science and technology is extremely significant in raising public awareness of, and preparing effective measures in advance against, the risk of tsunami. It is essential that we strengthen policy-making based on scientific knowledge.

For instance, analysis of past disasters and the mechanism that generates tsunami will enable us to estimate the wave height and area to be impacted by tsunami that may be caused by a large-scale earthquake in the future. Up-grading of tsunami forecast will facilitate future investment in disaster risk reduction.

Japan has taken the lead in efforts to make the international community more resilient by utilizing lessons learned and technology gained through the history of natural disasters that took place in the past. For example, a seawall constructed with Japan's Official Development Assistance saved the capital city of the Maldives from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Japan has also assisted in the installment of a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean through UNESCO. Our recent technical cooperation projects include improving tsunami alert systems in Indonesia and Vanuatu as well as tsunami modeling based on the latest seabed observation and data analysis technology in Mexico, just to name a few.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of these activities based on scientific evidence, it is vital to raise awareness of tsunami especially among younger generations. This is one reason why Japan strongly advocated the establishment of World Tsunami Awareness Day in 2015. It is our sincere hope to promote greater understanding of tsunami so that it becomes common practice for as many people as possible to immediately evacuate sensitive areas once an earthquake hits.

In the same way, Japan has assisted school education on tsunami risk reduction and evacuation drills in the Asia-Pacific in cooperation with UNDP. More than one-hundred thousand teachers and children have joined the program since 2017. Furthermore, Japan has been offering a study course on tsunami risk reduction for women leaders of small island developing states through UNITAR.

This year marks a decade since the Great East Japan Earthquake and

Tsunami of March 11 2011. It is our responsibility to ensure that we never let the memory of this sad event fade, and to pass down the grim lessons we learned for posterity. We must continue our efforts to build a disaster-resilient and sustainable society for the future of our children and our grandchildren.

We cannot escape the hazards of tsunami, but we can minimize the damage they cause by drawing on the knowledge we have gained to date and redoubling our efforts to reduce the danger. Japan, as a disaster-prone country, is committed to contributing to building resilience, sustainable development and human security around the world by sharing its knowledge and best practices with other countries.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere hope that today's online event will be a valuable opportunity to facilitate further international cooperation in tackling tsunami and to raise awareness of the necessity to reduce the risks they pose, especially among future generations. Let us join forces to realize a world where no one is left behind by disasters.

Thank you very much.