

## Speech by State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Mr. SUZUKI Keisuke

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to address you at this closing plenary session. I express my sincere appreciation for the initiative taken by UNHCR and Switzerland in co-hosting this Forum.

The latest data shows a huge gap between global resettlement needs and the actual number of resettlement places, even though recognition of the protection needs of refugees has been increasing. A huge gap also remains between the total funding required and actual funds contributed. These kinds of evidence-based reflections and studies provide important insights for finding refugee solutions and we need to accelerate this kind of logical approach.

Japan's recent actions include (1) the expansion of refugee resettlement in terms of both numbers and target population, (2) the extension of educational opportunities to Syrian students as announced in 2016, and (3) a decision to take comprehensive measures for the acceptance of foreign nationals to work and live in Japan.

In terms of burden- and responsibility-sharing, Japan will continue to provide assistance to refugees and affected populations in regions such as the Middle East and Africa. As we go about this work, we will keep in mind the approach of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus that is based on the concept of Human Security led by Madame OGATA Sadako and backed by the Government of Japan for more than 20 years. An important part of the nexus approach is involving a wide range of stakeholders. In Japan, one month ago, civil society stakeholders hosted multi-stakeholder consultations for the GCR and GRF prior to this Forum to promote a whole-of-society approach.

In the context of making people and society acknowledge this problem, welcoming refugee team in 2020, next year's Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games is also a good opportunity to raise awareness and deepen understanding on refugee issues in Japan and around the world.

Lastly, on behalf of the Japanese Government, I would like to announce our continuing strong commitment of supporting refugees and affected populations.

Thank you very much.

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