

High-level meeting on financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond

The Right Honorable Prime Minister of Canada,
Justin Trudeau,
The Most Honorable Prime Minister of Jamaica,
Andrew Holness,
Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Mr. António Guterres,
Excellencies,

In an increasingly globalized world, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of the international community. The COVID-19 pandemic is indeed a crisis to human security. Japan has been working closely with the international community to overcome the crisis under the concept of human security since the beginning of COVID-19.

To address COVID-19, Japan has already provided foreign aid of 1.54 billion dollars to developing countries in a few months since this February with unprecedented speed.

The development and delivery of vaccines are critical, as they will turn the tide of the global fight against COVID-19.

Securing fair access to vaccines for developing countries or countries with small populations is also vitally important.

Based on the notion that the international community must treat vaccines as “global public goods, ” we are working with international partners such as CEPI and Gavi to develop and deliver vaccines.

It is also essential to take measures to ensure economic recovery from serious economic damages. In this regard, Japan has established the “COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan” of 4.5 billion dollars over the next two years. The distribution of funds has already begun. We are also leading the discussions at G20 and the Paris Club over issues including debt sustainability

For a medium to long duration in the post-COVID-19 era, we need to enhance the transparency of the flow of public finance and promote mobilization of private resources through Impact investment and ESG investment.

This year marks “year-one” of the “Decade of Action” towards the achievement of the SDGs. The notion of “leaving no one behind,” which symbolizes the SDGs, should be the guiding principle for designing our society for the future. Japan will redouble its efforts to achieve the SDGs together with the international community.

Thank you.