

State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. UTO's video message

International Donor's Conference in
Solidarity with Venezuelan refugees
and Migrants

Dear distinguished participants, I'm UTO Takashi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

At the outset, I am honored to take part in this important conference and would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Canada, UNHCR and IOM for their leadership for addressing the Venezuelan crisis.

Also, I'd like to express my deep respect to the neighboring countries who maintain their doors open to the Venezuelan refugees and migrants amid the global spread of the COVID-19.

Japan is deeply concerned about the on-going deterioration of the political, economic and social conditions in Venezuela, and the pandemic of the COVID-19 since last year, which are seriously affecting the Venezuelan people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, and causing a region-wide impact through the exodus of about 5.6 million of Venezuelan people.

In order to improve the worsening humanitarian situation in and around Venezuela, Japan has provided assistance of approximately 44 million dollars for Venezuelan refugees and migrants since 2017.

These include support for child protection, food assistance, and medical equipment.

Especially, since the last years' donor conference, to bridge the financial gap for the Venezuelan refugees and migrants issue, Japan has contributed actively through the approximately 10 million dollars of supports such as the assistance through IOM for Peru, which includes the food assistance, vocational training for Venezuelans and the support for strengthening Peru ' s capacity to host them, and the assistance through UNICEF to support the vaccination in Venezuela.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought the great challenge for the Venezuelans.

In this regard, Japan decided to extend Emergency Grants Aid of 2.35 million dollars to Venezuela through UNICEF as "Last One Mile Support" to ensure vaccination to each and every Venezuelans, providing the equipment related to the cold chain.

This support complements the COVAX Facility to which Japan already has contributed 200 million dollars to accelerate the vaccination in the world.

Through these efforts, Japan, with the international community, will continue to provide support to the Venezuelan people including people fleeing from Venezuela, as well as to the neighboring countries affected.

Finally, in order to fundamentally improve the situation in Venezuela, not only the humanitarian assistance but also the peaceful restoration of democracy based on its constitutional order is essential.

In this regard, Japan reiterates its call for peaceful and constructive efforts toward restoring the democracy with a broad participation of the Venezuelan people.

Thank you for your kind attention.