

第21回環インド洋連合 (IORA) 閣僚会合 本田大臣政務官ステートメント

His Excellency Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to participate in the 21st Meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers.

It has been nearly two years since the COVID-19 crisis overturned our world. Japan has supported IORA states throughout this time to overcome the difficulties caused by the pandemic. In addition to providing assistance to strengthen health and medical systems, we have donated vaccines both bilaterally and through the COVAX Facility, while also advancing “Last One Mile Support” to develop cold chain systems to ensure efficient delivery of vaccines. We have also provided assistance to revive the economies. These contributions aim to support people in this time of need, and are a testament to Japan’s unwavering commitment to this region’s development.

Earlier this month, world leaders convened to discuss another global crisis – climate change. Many IORA states, like Japan, are vulnerable to natural disasters – disasters that will increase in frequency and size if sea levels continue to rise. To harness the opportunities of the Indian Ocean

region sustainably, actions to address climate change and efforts to minimize its effects are crucial. At the COP26, Japan announced to double its assistance to approximately 14.8 billion US dollars for adaptation such as in the area of disaster risk reduction, one of IORA's central pillars. Japan will continue to work with IORA states towards our shared objectives.

The Indian Ocean region, which stretches from Asia to Africa, is essential and integral to Japan's pursuit of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Japan has consistently advanced efforts closely in line with the IORA Charter, in areas including promotion of free trade, enhancement of connectivity in pursuit of economic prosperity and capacity building on maritime law enforcement. This includes our longstanding contributions to anti-piracy measures in Asia through the Information Sharing Center of ReCAAP, the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia. As we host the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) in 2022, Japan looks forward to further enhancing and deepening cooperation with IORA to realize this vision.

Thank you.