

**Statement by Mr. Shingo Miyake,
Parliamentary Vice–Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the 78th Session of the United Nations Economic
and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
May 23, 2022**

Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by expressing my congratulations on the seventy–fifth anniversary of the establishment of UNESCAP. I am very pleased to participate in this Commission in person.

First, Russia’ s aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by forcibly shaking the very foundations of the international order. It is absolutely unacceptable, and Japan condemns it in the strongest terms. We will continue taking resolute actions in solidarity with the international community, in order to defend the foundations of the international order.

To make further progress towards sustainable development, it is essential to cooperate with other countries based on the new generation of human security concept, rather than prioritizing one’ s own interests. The special report UNDP published this February calls for greater solidarity, along with protection and empowerment as core principles, to overcome new threats to human security in the Anthropocene.

From this point of view, Japan has been working on strengthening prevention, preparedness and response to future pandemics and also on promoting universal health coverage that is more resilient, equitable, and sustainable,

under the principle of “no one should be left behind” .

Climate change has a profound effect on the threats to human security. We need to be united to tackle this most urgent global issue.

Last June, Japan announced our contribution to provide climate finance, both public and private, totaling approximately 60 billion USD over the five years from 2021 to 2025. Further at the COP26, Japan announced the provision of up to 10 billion USD additional climate finance, both public and private in the same period in order to lead the committed delivery of 100 billion USD per year by the developed countries collectively committed, and doubling its assistance for adaptation to approximately 14.8 billion USD in the same period.

60% of the world’ s population resides in the Asia-Pacific region, where natural disasters occur frequently and even intensify year by year. Accordingly, the necessity for disaster risk reduction is ever more important.

Japan actively promotes capacity building for effective disaster risk reduction against tsunami, which may cause greater damage in the future due to rising sea levels. As part of this effort, Japan has been supporting a training programme on women’ s leadership in tsunami-based disaster risk reduction for small island states in the Pacific since 2016. Japan is also extending support to disaster risk reduction policy planning that takes into consideration gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region through ESCAP.

I hope the current Commission, sharing good practices and lessons, will enhance greater solidarity to realize a post-Covid-19 era that is flexible and resilient and in which the SDGs are achieved. Japan reiterates our continuous

efforts in cooperation with ESCAP and other stakeholders to advance sustainable development in the region.

Thank you.