

COVID-19 Global Action Plan Foreign Ministerial Meeting
Statement by Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa

Secretary Blinken, distinguished participants,

A year ago in February, when the Omicron variant was raging around the world, we came together to launch the Global Action Plan.

Since the launch of the GAP, under the leadership of the United States, various countries and international organizations have cooperated in efforts to contain COVID-19.

Japan has not only addressed vaccine supply but has also developed vaccination capacities, taking the lead to “Get Shots in Arms” as part of the Global Action Plan.

During the past year, we have seen remarkable progress in the situation surrounding vaccination.

However, it is also true that we are still facing challenges in ensuring "equitable access" to vaccines throughout the world, and our efforts should continue.

In addition to our current efforts against COVID-19, we must also fully prepare for actions to be taken after the acute phase of the pandemic.

Japan has also made a strong contribution to “Strengthening Global Health Security Architecture.” As part of this commitment, Japan has announced a contribution of 50 million USD to the newly-established Pandemic Fund.

Further, it is increasingly important to facilitate the economic and social revitalization and the resumption of cross-border travel for developing countries. For this, Japan has been providing up to 100 million USD, primarily in the Indo-Pacific region. Through this assistance, we support development of a digital information management system for vaccination and the strengthening of border control management capacity including infectious disease control measures.

In May, Japan will host the G7 Hiroshima Summit with global health as one of its priority issues.

Under Japan's Presidency, the G7 Summit will advance discussion based on the following three pillars:

- (1) developing and strengthening global health architecture for public health emergencies,
- (2) contributing to achieving more resilient, equitable and sustainable universal health coverage, and
- (3) promoting health innovation to address various health challenges.

Japan is determined to continue to play a leading role in global health, not only for the containment of COVID-19, but also for the establishment of better health security and the achievement of UHC toward the post COVID-19 era. In other words, the realization of a society that leaves no one behind.

We will continue to cooperate closely with countries including the US, which has led the GAP, as well as with GAP participants, G20 members, the WHO, and other relevant organizations and partners.

Thank you.

(End)