

The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Ministerial Round Table 3: 7 March, 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.

Good practices in addressing barriers to bridge the gender digital divide and promote education in the digital age for achieving gender equality

Statement by Ms. Yumiko Tanaka, Representative of Japan

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to you, your fellow Bureau members and all those involved in your dedicated efforts to organize this meeting.

In April 2022, Japan formulated the “Digital Human Resources Development Plan for Women.” By expanding Japan’s “Grant for the Promotion of Local Women’s Participation and Advancement” scheme, the Human Resources Development Plan aims to further support local governments’ efforts suitable for local situations, and promote capacity development of women to work in the digital field and increase female representation in executive and managerial positions in cooperation with private sectors. This measure encourages efforts to improve women’s digital skills and support employment in the digital field.

For example, in Shiojiri City, Nagano Prefecture, women acquired digital skills through on-the-job training while teleworking at times and places that suited their schedule, which led to their new employment at local companies. This

program also contributed to digital transformation in regional public facilities and businesses.

Furthermore, Japan supports women to gain digital skills and find jobs. For instance, Japan offers e-learning courses and courses with childcare services in public vocational training for jobseekers, making it easier to take courses for women with time constraints due to childcare or other reasons. In addition, Japan helps such women find employment by providing career planning consulting during their training period and incorporating practical training in companies.

In order to enhance women and girls' access and use of digital technology, Japan is promoting ICT education. At the compulsory education levels, which is elementary and junior-high school, all students are provided with one PC that is integrated into telecommunication networks at school to further develop the qualities and abilities of children with diverse backgrounds.

Japan also supports improving women's digital skills and knowledge as part of our international cooperation. For example, through UN Women, Japan helped provide Syrian refugee women in Türkiye with training in basic ICT skills in addition to Turkish language and sewing skills for their economic empowerment, enabling them to learn information security, digital marketing, social media management, etc.

Japan is committed to continuously implement these series of measures to realize gender equality and women's empowerment in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

Thank you very much.