

2023 年第 78 回国連総会サイドイベント
「Integrating Essential Nutrition Actions in Universal Health Coverage」
赤堀地球規模課題審議官ステートメント

Nutrition is vital to human life. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit hosted by Japan this year, the Leaders' Communique highlighted that *“Nutrition is also fundamental from the viewpoint of a human centered approach, and we highlight the importance of improving access to healthy diets, including through school meal programs.”* .

Currently, more than 140 million children around the world suffer from stunting as a result of undernutrition, while nutritional deficiency causes about half the deaths of children under five. At the same time, the number of people who are overweight and obese reaches record levels regardless of high-income or resource-limited countries, and it is said that approximately 2 billion people in the world suffer from diseases related to their dietary habits, such as diabetes.

In December 2021, Japan hosted the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021. At the Summit, “the Tokyo Compact on Global Nutrition for Growth” was issued as the outcome document endorsed by more than 210 stakeholders including governments, international organizations, private sectors, and civil society, indicating a direction for the international society to improve nutrition. Moreover, more than 180 stakeholders submitted over 390 commitments, and over 27 billion US dollars of financial commitment were announced. These results exceeded the outcomes of past Nutrition for Growth Summits. Prime Minister Kishida also announced that Japan will provide nutrition-related assistance that will amount to over 300 billion yen (2.8 billion US dollars), which would also contribute to achieving universal health coverage (UHC).

Improving nutrition is related not only to the second goal of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also to a wide range of sectors such as health, agriculture, logistics, water, sanitation and hygiene, and gender equality. Therefore, advancing initiatives through cooperation between the various sectors can bring us closer

toward achieving the SDGs.

Based on the principle of human security and in close collaboration with various stakeholders including SUN, Japan is determined to make every effort to ensure that no one's health is left behind, and this certainly includes the achievement of UHC and improvement of nutrition worldwide.

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