Opening Remarks by
H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Foreign Minister of Japan
At the UN Event for the World Tsunami Awareness Day
(5 November 2026)

I am MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and to all those who have dedicated their efforts to making this event possible.

The world today is facing complex crises, such as climate change and the increasing severity and frequency of disasters. Addressing these global challenges is an urgent priority for the international community.

In 2015, a resolution was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly with the endorsement of 142 nations, designating November 5th as "World Tsunami Awareness Day." This resolution, spearheaded by the Japanese government, aims to deepen global understanding and awareness of the threats posed by tsunamis and the necessary countermeasures, inspired by the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

We seek to protect precious lives and build a society where everyone can live in safety and security. International cooperation is indispensable to disaster risk reduction efforts, which are becoming increasingly important.

Through the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, scheduled to be held in Sendai in October of next year, Japan will actively contribute to global discussions on disaster risk reduction by sharing our accumulated expertise and technologies with the world.

Furthermore, the key to passing on our disaster risk reduction efforts to the future lies with the next generation of young people. At today's event,

we welcome three high school students, Ms. KARUBE Mika, Mr. TAKEUCHI Shogo, and Ms. ISHIZAWA Moka, participating as representatives of the High School Student Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day", which was held in Iwate Prefecture last month.

Fifteen years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, I am deeply encouraged to see you sharing with the world what you have learned in Iwate, where the lessons of the disaster have been passed down through the years, and sending a powerful message about the actions each of us can take.

The willingness to take action demonstrated by these high school students embodies the very spirit of this year's theme for World Tsunami Awareness Day: “Be Tsunami Ready: Resilience Starts with You”.

I sincerely hope that today's event will help us to work hand-in-hand to build a resilient world together. And with that, I conclude my remarks.