

Agenda 4 (a) Protection

JAPAN

Mr. Chairman,

Japan pays tribute to UNHCR for its activities to provide protection for people of concern. We appreciate the respect shown by the organization for refugees' individual needs based on age, gender and diversity. It is essential that the international community place "protection" at the center of its collaborative response to the issues surrounding refugees and displaced persons. Indeed, the centrality of protection is one of the guiding principles of the Global Compact on Refugees and serves as an important basis for our work. We must keep this principle in mind at December's Global Refugee Forum and as we implement the GCR going forward.

Mr. Chairman,

Young people are our future and Japan believes that ensuring educational opportunities for youth is extremely important from the perspective of protection. As today's many refugee issues grow increasingly protracted we must work to prevent a "lost generation." Education is also crucial to enable young people to contribute to their country's reconstruction and prevent further outbreaks of conflict once conditions become conducive to their return.

From this perspective, Japan has been steadily implementing programs to provide educational opportunities for young Syrians since 2016. To date, we have received almost 80 university students and their families. Among these programs, we recently welcomed the third cohort of students under the JISR program led by JICA. We greatly appreciate the close cooperation that UNHCR has provided for this program, and would like to ask for UNHCR's continued cooperation with its implementation.

Japanese universities are also engaged in providing refugee youth with securing educational opportunities. A number of Japanese universities are providing support

for refugees from Africa, Asia and the Middle East as part of their partnership with UNHCR to increase higher education opportunities for refugees through the Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP).

Mr. Chairman,

Third country resettlement programs are also an important mechanism for the protection of refugees. Japan is the first country in Asia to introduce a third country resettlement program. We have been carrying out our program since it was first piloted in 2010, and have provided thorough assistance for the refugees in order to promote their smooth local integration in Japan. Furthermore, with the GCR in mind, Japan carried out a review of its third country resettlement program involving the relevant government ministries and experts. Based on this review, in June this year we decided to expand the scope and size of the target population as part of our international and humanitarian contributions. We look forward to UNHCR's continued cooperation in implementing this program.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan appreciates UNHCR's activities to provide protection for IDPs and returnees. We also appreciate UNCHR for sharing with us its policy on its engagement in situations of internal displacement. While the responsibility for the protection of IDPs and returnees lies primarily with the country concerned, UNHCR's experience and know-how in this area is most valuable. We therefore encourage UNHCR to work together with other UN agencies and other relevant organizations to address this issue.

Thank you.