

Protection

Madam Chair,

It is indeed crucial that the international community sets “protection” at the center of its collaborative response to the refugee issue. In this context, Japan appreciates that UNHCR is paying respect to refugees’ individual needs based on age, gender and other criteria.

Madam Chair,

Young people are our future and Japan believes that ensuring educational opportunities for youth is extremely important from the perspective of protection. The international community has a very big role to play in this area.

Japan announced a program to provide educational opportunities for young Syrians in 2016, and is steadily implementing the announcement to receive up to 150 students in 5 years. In fiscal year 2017, we welcomed a total of 28 university students and their families. By providing young Syrians with educational opportunities in this way, we expect the program to contribute to capacity building for the youth who will rebuild Syria in the future. 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 have also been partnering with UNHCR to carry out the Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP). The program provides scholarships for refugees living in Japan to study at Japanese universities, thus ensuring educational opportunities for refugees and facilitating their future advancement in the society.

Madam Chair,

Third country resettlement program is also an important mechanism for the protection of refugees. Japan is the first country in Asia to introduce the third country resettlement program. We have been carrying out our program since it was

first piloted in 2010. We have provided thorough assistance for the refugees who have come to Japan under the program in order to promote their smooth local integration. Bearing in mind the current situation regarding refugees and the discussion on the GCR, and in order to contribute further to addressing humanitarian situation, Japan will consider its refugee resettlement programme including expanding the scope of the targeted population.

(in the international community,)

Japan will review the scope of the targeted refugees for its refugee resettlement programme.