

Government of Japan's Intervention

for the GRF High-Level Officials Meeting - Spotlight Session on the Support Platforms

Geneva, 14 December 2021

Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
Distinguished participants,

First, Japan expresses its appreciation to those who have worked to arrange the Global Refugee Forum High-Level Officials Meeting, in particular the staff of UNHCR, who have played a central role in this regard.

The holding of this meeting is indeed timely amid the current situation, where the world continues to see the highest number of refugees and IDPs since the end of World War II. We expect that the meetings starting from today will be fruitful and contribute to improving the international community's response to refugee and IDP issues.

We appreciate the important role played by the support platforms in supporting the implementation of comprehensive regional response frameworks in order to address refugee issues, including: (1) voluntary repatriation of refugees; (2) creation of an environment to foster sustainable social inclusion; and (3) easing of the burden on host countries. There is value in expanding this effective approach to other regions, and Japan welcomes the establishment of the Central African Republic Situation Support Platform.

As a major donor who has been supporting the improvement of the refugee situation in Afghanistan over many years, Japan joined the core-group of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) in July 2020. Since then, Japan has contributed to mobilizing support for Afghanistan through strengthening of partnerships with relevant international organizations and governments. Japan will continue to fulfil its role and responsibility as a member of the group.

In response to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan since last August, Japan is providing new emergency grant aid worth USD 65 million in such areas as shelter, health, WASH, food, agriculture, and education in collaboration with international organizations, including UNHCR.

At the same time, we think that continued assistance to the host countries of Afghan refugees that are bearing a huge burden is important. From this perspective, the aforementioned contribution includes USD 7 million in assistance to neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan.

Further, since many Afghan refugees have been living in Pakistan over the years, Japan has provided support to UNHCR's projects targeting both refugees and host communities in the country.

As such, Japan will continue providing assistance, not only to refugee countries of origin but also to host countries.

As a core-member of the SSAR, Japan stands ready to continue its support for the people of Afghanistan who are enduring great difficulties, and to the countries hosting refugees, through close cooperation with the member countries and UNHCR.

Thank you.