

Statement by Mr. IMAFUKU Takao
Assistant Minister and Director-General of
International Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the high-level event commemorating 75 years of the
1951 Refugee Convention

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan extends its congratulations, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Convention remains vital, and its implementation continues to be shared responsibility.

Japan started to accept Indochinese refugees in 1978, and the national legislations on refugee protection were done when acceding to the Convention in 1981. Since then, we have appropriately protected those who should be recognized as refugees under the Convention. Today, we also have been accepting refugees under the resettlement scheme since 2010 and supporting Syrian refugees to study in Japan since 2017.

Japan welcomes UNHCR's "50 by 35" initiative and will support its efforts. Japan has long supported UNHCR through public and private channels and will further promote private-sector partnerships. In responding to crises, including the return and

reintegration of Afghan and Syrian refugees, support for host communities is also essential.

Guided by human security, Japan places strong emphasis on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. It is critical to advancing durable solutions, including voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement. We welcome UNHCR's "sustainable response" and expect it to play catalytic role in engaging development partners and international finance institutions.

Japan remains committed to working UNHCR and all partners to advance protection, solution and solidarity.

Thank you.