

Draft Statement Issued by Atsushi Hanatani of JICA
on the Occasion of the IDM Workshop
(Session 4/Panel 2: Financing the implementation of migration-related targets)

- Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak at this event as a representative of JICA, the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Today I will be speaking on the issue of migration from the vantage point of a development donor, which is a non-traditional actor in this sector. We understand that the distinction between refugees and migrants is becoming increasingly blurred, and with this in mind, I will be addressing both refugees and migrants in my statement.
- The Japanese government and JICA—the implementing arm of Japan’s ODA programs—have always stressed the importance of human security, focusing on vulnerable individuals and helping to set them free from fear and want. The spirit of human security resonates very well with the preamble to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which contains the pledge that “no one will be left behind.”
- In today’s highly volatile world, the issue of migration and forced displacement has become one of the most serious human security issues, and it is in this light that we have come to commit ourselves to providing support to people on the move.
- As a manifestation of its commitment to addressing human security issues, the Japanese government took up and discussed refugee and migration issues as one of the principal themes at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May this year. The government further underscored this commitment by announcing at the Leader’s Summit on Refugees held in New York last month that it would provide an assistance package worth about 2.8 billion USD between 2016 to 2018 for refugees and migrants.
- In its capacity as a development aid agency, JICA has long provided state-building assistance for conflict-affected countries and regions throughout the world in order to lay the foundations for peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict: addressing the root causes of displacement. This is actually one of the original goals of the development assistance that JICA has been mandated to provide. Our

programs in Cambodia and Timor-Leste, for example, have contributed to consolidating a sustainable peace that helps to prevent people from being displaced.

- However, in light of the severity of the situation we face in the world today, we have incorporated greater flexibility into our operations by introducing some innovative measures for coping with new situations that require us to go beyond our original mandate.
- First, we are striving to mobilize developmental resources for refugees and migrants-related issues in a bid to find long-term solutions to humanitarian crisis – an effort in strengthening humanitarian and development nexus. One of the challenges in realizing this lies in the fact that it requires extra coordination between different departments within the donor government as well as with other organizations concerned. One such example is the joint programme undertaken in border control sector of South Sudan before 2013 crisis where JICA supported capacity building of customs office of South Sudan while GoJ provided multilateral support for Immigration Office through IOM. In a similar vein, as a member of the Solutions Alliance initiative, an international network for finding durable solutions to the issue of protracted displacement situations, Japan is committed to provide both developmental and humanitarian support to nine pilot countries in close coordination with UN agencies and other partners.
- Second, one of the characteristics of today's crises is that the countries that are suffering are not only low-income countries, but also relatively well-off ones. For these middle-income countries, we have offered extensive financial support to build up the resilience of countries and communities hosting refugees and migrants. For example, in response to the Syrian crisis, we have provided budgetary support to Jordan and Turkey in the form of concessional loans amounting to 800 million USD to help ease the burden of hosting refugees and migrants. JICA is also preparing to provide concessional loans amounting to 900 million USD to the World Bank's Global Crisis Response Platform, for which the Japanese government has also committed to providing 100 million USD as part of its contribution to equity funds.
- Third, dealing directly with refugees and migrants has long been outside of our mandate and this remains true today. Recently, however, if the situation permits, JICA contributes through bilateral means to the

empowering of those who have been displaced. In Jordan, for example, Japan is promoting human resource development for Syrians through the provision of educational assistance and vocational training to help strengthen their economic self-reliance. Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers are also working hard in refugee camps to support Syrian refugee children by providing them with psychosocial and nursing care. Starting from next year, JICA will also start accepting Syrian youths for post-graduate studies in Japan. JICA is also providing similar forms of capacity building support that directly targets current and former refugees in Zambia and Uganda, where they are given the legal right to settle or cultivate and find employment in the host country.

- In order for these kinds of JICA assistance to be triggered, there has to be clear local ownership on the part of the host country, both in terms of anchoring refugee issues in national development policies and strategies, and the existence of a non-exclusive policy and legal framework for refugees in the host country.
- JICA's basic position in terms of engaging with the issue of displacement and migration is to "Help those who help themselves." We help host governments that are committed to refugee and migrant issues; we help host communities that are committed to peaceful co-existence with refugees and migrants; and we help displaced people who are willing to help themselves to become self-reliant.
- We believe that durable solutions to humanitarian crises require strong leadership and ownership on the part of the host country's government. Japan and JICA are committed to ensuring that local ownership is encouraged and strengthened as we continue to fulfill our role as a member of the international community to implement migration-related SDGs.

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