Thank you Chair,

We are now seeing the spread of COVID-19 in all corners of the world causing great damage to both people themselves and to socio-economic activities globally. Faced with this situation, Japan appreciates and expresses its respect to all the IOM staff working each day under the “stay and deliver” initiative taken by the Director General in spite of the risks to their own health.

Japan is one of the first countries to react to IOM’s Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and contributed 6 million USD in March to support IOM’s work. The contribution covers nine countries including Iran, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar and goes toward implementing activities such as coordination, risk communication, surveillance, and prevention measures at points of entry in order to support vulnerable people, including women and children.

These activities were supposed to end by September but considering the ongoing need for assistance on the ground, they are still being continued in all nine of the target countries.

We live in a world where economic activities are underpinned by global migration. Accordingly, measures against COVID-19 should be taken globally. As the virus induces threats and risks in many aspects of our lives, it is important to make sure no one is left behind in line with the concept of human security.

To this end, Japan will strive to provide leadership for the International Community’s initiatives by continuing to support developing countries in order to achieve the containment of COVID-19, recovery and stabilization of socio-economic activities, and sustainable development.