

Japan is concerned about the vast and protracted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that we are witnessing all across the world. We would like to take this moment to express our utmost respect to all those who are working tirelessly to tackle COVID-19 in every country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had devastating indirect impacts on social and economic circumstances and demographic trends as a result of response measures, such as lockdowns and restrictions on the movement of people and goods. In the context of “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development,” there is a great concern that the world is not on track to achieve the goal of eliminating hunger by 2030.

Under the current difficult circumstances, where the most vulnerable people will face further greater hardship, global efforts to respond swiftly to the crisis are required. As a staunch supporter of the concept of human security, which aims to ensure that everyone enjoys life with dignity with no one left behind, Japan, working in cooperation with FAO and WFP, has been supporting the restoration and strengthening of food supply and nutrition, including through emergency food assistance.

For example, at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development VI held in 2016, Japan established the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), in cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in order to provide support to 10 pilot countries in Africa to promote policy formulation and implementation for improving nutrition. The initiative has since been expanded to cover several additional countries throughout the Africa region.

Japan will also be hosting the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 in December. The COVID-19 pandemic reminds us of the critical importance of nutrition in the context of the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. As host country of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, Japan supports the United Nations Food System Summit to address global nutritional disparities and malnutrition and will play an active role in accelerating international efforts to

resolve the issues of hunger and malnutrition.

Furthermore, while we see a direct impact of food security and nutrition on individual human health throughout the lifecycle, food security and nutrition also have a connection to larger demographic trends, including fertility, mortality, urbanization, and migration. Therefore, we welcome further discussions from a global perspective to promote food security and to integrate a nutrition component into the concept of Universal Health coverage (UHC).

Finally, we look forward to working closely with the Commission on Population and Development and expect this conference to be a solid driver leading to both the Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021.