

Statement by H.E. Ambassador OKANIWA Ken on the occasion of the General
Debate
on the 111th IOM Council
25 November 2020

Thank you, Chair,

Japan appreciates the efforts of the Director General to strengthen IOM's activities under the extreme circumstances of the COVID 19 pandemic. We would like to take this opportunity to express our respect to all the IOM staff who work in various parts of the globe under the "Stay and Deliver" Initiative of the Director General.

Japan was one of the first countries to respond to IOM's COVID 19 appeal in March, contributing US\$ 6 million in March to support 9 countries in Asia. IOM activities are expected to contribute to protect vulnerable people including displaced persons from the virus, sustain livelihoods and achieve the SDGs. With the development of vaccines against COVID 19 in sight, IOM is expected to play a crucial role in resuming international movement of people.

Despite the current pandemic, IOM has continued to deliver assistance for emergencies, migration and repatriation, and development. Recently, security situation in Mozambique deteriorated and there was a need to support IDPs and host communities, Japan decided to extend emergency grant assistance amounting to US\$1.43 million through IOM. We would particularly like to commend IOM for maintaining its capacity for effective implementation on the ground.

Japan looks forward to continue cooperation with IOM on COVID 19 and other areas to support those who are vulnerable.

Chair,

Japan welcomes Director General's initiative to strengthen internal governance in accordance with recommendations from MOPAN. We appreciate the enhanced

capacity of the Office of the Inspector General which is expected to lead to more robust oversight. As Member States have established the procedure for selecting the Deputy Director General positions, we look forward to the early selection of the new DDGs. Japan also supports Director General's efforts to introduce a common system for remuneration, procurement and reporting in country offices as a way to promote efficiency and better management.

With respect to the proposed budget reform, there is a need to carefully consider all the relevant aspects and to leave room for flexibility of contributions by donor countries. Japan also attaches importance to increasing cost-efficiency, especially in view of the fiscal difficulties as a result of COVID 19 in donor countries.

In view of the importance of this issue, Japan will continue to participate actively in the Working Group. We look forward to constructive engagement with IOM.

Chair,

Cooperation among countries is of critical importance in order to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration. Japan will work to achieve the objectives of the GCM in accordance with its domestic laws. In this connection, Japan is committed to contribute to the regional review of GCM for the Asia-Pacific in March.

Thank you, Chair