

General Debate by the government of Japan

We are deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in many parts of the world, which has been exacerbated by the current international situation. In particular, as the “World Migration Report 2024” underlines, the number of migrants reached approximately 281 million worldwide in 2020 and the number of displaced persons reached a record 117 million at the end of 2022, clearly indicating that now in the 2020s people are moving on an unprecedented scale.

It is important to focus on the challenges that continue to exist as well as the economic growth that will result from the movement of people. In this context, IOM’s role is more important now than it has ever been.

We appreciate the important achievements made by Director General Pope over the past year, such as (1) the announcement of the new IOM strategy for 2024–2028, (2) IOM’s restructuring, and (3) the strengthening of private partnerships.

- Japan has long been committed to the HDP Nexus approach. In this connection, we welcome IOM’s participation in the HDP Nexus Multi Stakeholder Pledge last June.

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While the global humanitarian situation is becoming more and more serious, resources for providing assistance remain strained. We cannot adopt the same approaches taken in the past to address the difficulties we face today.

- Rather, it is important to strengthen collaboration with private partners and leverage the HDP Nexus, which is the very approach that Director General Pope has been putting into practice.

As the scale of an organization’s activities increases, the transparency of its operations becomes even more important. Last month, Director General Pope delivered her one-year briefing to the Asia Pacific Group, in which she reported on the progress of each of the three pillars of the Strategic Plan. We are especially grateful for this high level of transparency provided directly from the head of IOM. We would like to request continued strengthening of accountability.

For its part, Japan has worked closely with IOM to implement specific projects, such as co-hosting an International Forum on Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and their Integration into Japan, accepting refugees into Japan through third-country resettlement.

In addition, when Director General Pope visited Japan in February of this year, the Immigration Services Agency of Japan concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with IOM, in which both parties agreed to strengthen cooperation. The Government of Japan, in cooperation with IOM, is also currently preparing for the introduction of pre-entry tuberculosis screening for countries with a high number of TB cases. We look forward to continuing in this way to deepen our collaboration with IOM.

Thank you.