

Japan's Statement for Items 11.2, 11.5, and 11.9

Japan appreciates the secretariat for comprehensive review and updates on this technical item.

We would like to deliver comments on Agenda Item 11.2 Universal Health Coverage, 11.5 Tuberculosis, and 11.9 Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis for human security. Japan considers achieving UHC is more important than ever to “leave no one behind” in resuming economic activities. The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us of the importance of UHC which enables rapid and effective infection control. In Japan, public health centers and community health workers play essential roles to resume economic activities and control COVID-19 at the same time.

We encourage the WHO to actively support member states to implement UHC policies. We request the WHO to promote “whole of government and whole of society approach,” provide support to monitor the progress of UHC, and involve finance sectors to strengthen UHC through financial management capacity with transparency.

Next, regarding tuberculosis, we welcome the global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation. Rapid detection in both tuberculosis and COVID-19 is critical, and we expect the WHO to provide technical and strategic support to achieve the goals and targets of the End TB Strategy.

Lastly, Intellectual property plays a central role in incentivizing researchers, and we consider appreciating and protecting intellectual property as appropriate is vital to boost innovation.

At the same time, we also recognizes the importance of providing these products at an affordable price in a timely manner, with due consideration given to voluntary licensing. Therefore, Japan supports research and development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, as well as equitable access to vaccines including low and middle income countries. Furthermore, Japan is committed to contributing to COVAX AMC to enable global access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Thank you.