

Japan's Statement for Item 12

Japan recognizes that the activities of nurses and midwives greatly contribute to health for all to achieve the SDGs and gender equality, as well as economic development. We support the draft decision and welcome the proposal to designate 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers.

Here, I would like to make two points regarding this agenda.

First, I would like to highlight the role and contribution of health personnel, such as nurses and midwives, in achieving UHC and strengthening health systems. In Japan, they have promoted primary health care in communities and fulfilled the needs of people's health and lives during disasters and public health emergencies.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been actively working to control the infection not only at hospitals but also at facilities for the elderly and disabled. Moreover, they are actively engaged in risk communication and consultation to reduce the anxiety of pregnant women, as well as to conduct surveillance in communities. Japan highly commends their dedicated work.

Second, global cooperation to increase investment in the health workforce is necessary.

In many countries, the actual situation of nurses and midwives is not well understood. In order to promote the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, national strategic plans and relevant education should be strengthened.

It is also noted that small island countries in the Pacific need to send their health personnel overseas to receive advanced education and training. Therefore, the effort to continue education across national borders is critically important.

Japan has contributed to developing regulations and license systems for health personnel, as well as clinical training systems and programs in many Asian and African countries. We will continue to support these activities of health personnel by sharing our experiences and knowledge, and strengthen collaboration with other countries.

Thank you.