

Japan's Statement for Items 18.2 and 18.7

Japan would like to deliver comments on 18.2 Programme Budget and 18.7 Human Resources.

First, Japan understands that COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the development of the next programme budget. As the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we highly appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to develop the budget.

I would like to highlight three items which we consider critical when developing the next programme budget.

First, please kindly provide proper opportunities for the member states to engage in developing the draft proposal.

Second, prioritization is needed for allocating an additional budget.

Third, we expect the Secretariat to ensure accountability and transparency when implementing the budget.

These three points are more important than ever in the COVID-19 pandemic era and when the WHO reform is underway. The expectations toward the WHO is very high. We encourage the Secretariat to continue better fund allocation, efficient implementation, and ensure accountability and transparency.

Next, Japan appreciates the Secretariat for its effort to develop the annual report on human resources.

Although we recognize the Secretariat's effort to improve the gender balance within the organization, further improvement is needed regarding regional diversity. We emphasize regional diversity since it is essential for the WHO to have respect for diverse cultures and senses of values which brings meaningful discussion at the organization.

Regarding under-represented countries, we think that the relevant country itself should make efforts to develop human resources and personal skills that is required at the WHO. In addition to these country efforts, we also request the WHO to work in collaboration with relevant countries, such as sending recruitment missions and actively accepting more interns from those countries.

Thank you.