

Japan's Statement for Item 20.1

We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Financial Report in the midst of COVID-19 responses. We also welcome the progress on the triple billion targets of the GPW 13.

However, we are concerned about the delay in implementing the base program due to COVID-19 responses. Japan has prioritized UHC and contributed to its achievements, such as the UHC political declaration at the UN General Assembly in 2019 and the G20 Leaders Summit in the same year. We recognized and confirmed the importance of collaboration between the Finance and Health Ministers to promote UHC, placing an emphasis on health financing.

At the same meeting in September this year, we discussed preparedness and response to a global pandemic. We realized that investment to strengthen health systems has a positive impact on the recovery and growth of the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to emphasize that effective measures need to be strengthened through robust health systems and UHC.

Regarding health emergencies, there are several financing mechanisms, including Strategic Preparedness and Response Program, Contingency Fund for Emergencies, Solidarity Response Fund, and WHO Foundation. We would like to ask the Secretariat how efficiently these funds are utilized and what impacts are made. As the WHO's role in emergency response is increasing during this COVID-19 pandemic, we would also like to request the Secretariat to further strengthen accountability and transparency.

Thank you.