

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobahsima, Ambassador of Japan
on Sustainable Resettlement of Former Refugees in Zambia
on Wednesday 10 May 2017

Ms. Juliana Shoko Chilombo, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Vice President,
Ms. Janet Rogan, UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia,
Mr. Manford Mulongo, Director, Department of Resettlement,
Mr. Abdon Mawere, Commissioner for Refugees,
Ms. Laura Lo Castro, Representative of UNHCR in Zambia,
Mr. Martim Faria e Maya, UNDP Country Director,
Mr. Hitoshi Fujiie, Acting Chief Representative, JICA Office, Zambia,
Senior Government Officials,
Representatives from Provinces and Districts,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words on the issue of sustainable resettlement of former refugees in Zambia.

Japan attaches importance to “Human Security”.

Thus we have been endeavoring to promote regional peace and security, by providing assistance to vulnerable refugees and supporting the development of the countries which host refugees, in various parts of the world.

In September last year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that the Government of Japan would implement an assistance package amounting to about 2.8 billion US Dollars, or around 30 billion Kwacha, from 2016 until 2018, of humanitarian and self-reliance support to refugees and migrants, and the host activity support to the countries and communities hosting them.

The characteristic of the Japanese cooperation in this field, is to promote emergency assistance of humanitarian nature, on the one hand, and development assistance for the refugees to become self-reliant as well as for the recipient countries to achieve economic development, on the other, in parallel, and we call this approach “the humanitarian and development

nexus”.

Here in Zambia, in order to support the refugees and former refugees, Japan extended to UNHCR a total of 11.3 million US Dollars or more than 100 million Kwacha from 2012 to 2016, and to UNHCR, UNDP, UNHABITAT, and UNICEF, a total of more than 2 million US Dollars (USD 2,087,000) or about 20 million Kwacha this year, which was referred to by the UN Resident Coordinator.

In Zambia, “the Local Integration Programme” to sustainably resettle former refugees is under way.

This Programme is uniquely Zambian worth high appreciation.

In order to further contribute to this Programme, in addition to the contributions to the UN Agencies here which I have just mentioned, Japan will send a development expert, Ms. Maegawa sitting there, to the Office of Vice President, provide 20 mobile science laboratory kits to secondary schools, send a JOCV to a school, and implement a project for improving the maintenance and management of the existing boreholes.

Furthermore Japan plans to send an Expert Mission on Infrastructure Development to the places of resettlement in Zambia between June and September this year.

In conclusion, Japan, as the country which has been cooperating to the resolution of the issues of refugees and former refugees in Zambia, in close coordination with the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the UN Agencies and other donors, hopes that the Local Integration Programme in Zambia will consolidate its success status, and the whole world will learn from, and take advantage of, this success story.

Thank you.