

**Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobahsima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia on “Promoting Human Security through Sustainable
Resettlement in Zambia” on Friday 13 October 2017**

The Hon. Sylvia Bambala Chalikosa, Minister in the Office of the Vice President,

The Hon. Richard Kapita, Minister of North Western Province,

Your Royal Highness Senior Chief Mumema,

Mr. Stephen Mwansa, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Vice President,

Mr. Ephraim Mateyo, Permanent Secretary, North Western Province,

Ms. Janet Rogan, UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia,

Ms. Mandisa Mashologu, UNDP Country Director,

Mr. Alexio Musindo, ILO Country Director,

Mr. Antonio Alberto, Consul General of the Republic of Angola,

Mr. Robinson Kalota, Kalumbila District Commissioner,

Mr. Junichi Hanai, Resident Representative, JICA,

Senior Government Officials,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words on “Promoting Human Security through Sustainable Resettlement in Zambia”.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Zambia in accepting refugees and former refugees, not only from neighboring DR Congo and Angola, but also from Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia, totaling about 60,000 people.

What is very unique here is that Zambia recognizes many long-term refugee immigrants from Angola and Rwanda totaling about 25,000 people as “Former Refugees”, and is implementing “the Local Integration Programme” to sustainably resettle them.

Meheba is the central venue, among other venues, for this Programme.

For all issues of refugees and former refugees, UNHCR, UNDP, and other UN Agencies are seriously helping and working.

Thus I would like to express my sincere appreciation also to the UN

Agencies.

Japan attaches importance to “Human Security”.

Thus, in various parts of the world, we have been extending 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, 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.

Using a part of this 20 million Kwacha contribution, the Resettlement Coordination Office, Department of Resettlement, Office of the Vice President, has been renovated, among other things.

In order to further contribute to “the Local Integration Programme”, in addition to the contributions to the UN Agencies which I have mentioned, Japan has, through JICA, assigned a development expert to the Office of Vice President, provided 20 mobile science laboratory kits to secondary schools, of which 15 were allocated in Meheba, and been implementing a project for improving the maintenance and management of the existing boreholes with the cooperation from AAR Japan, and sent an Expert Mission on Infrastructure Development to the places of resettlement from last July to August, to be followed by another Mission for the same purpose later in this month.

Furthermore, a JOCV will be assigned to Meheba A Basic School in January next year.

In conclusion, Japan, having been cooperating to the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the UN Agencies and other donors, to address the issues of refugees and former refugees, in Meheba and other places, hopes that Zambia’s success in this field will be consolidated and the whole world will learn from, and take advantage of, this success story.

Thank you.