

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic
of Zambia at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for Promotion of Women's
Health throughout the Life Cycle at One Stop Service Site in Zambia
(Phase 2) on Friday 25 January 2019

Ms. Kumiko Goto, General Project Manager, representing Japanese
Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, or JOICFP,
Ms. Nang'andu Joan Kamwale, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood
Association of Zambia, or PPAZ,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this
Signing Ceremony of a project of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO
Projects by the Government of Japan, for Promotion of Women's Health
throughout the Life Cycle at One Stop Service Site in Zambia (Phase 2),
amounting to up to US\$ 487,290, or about 5.8 million Kwacha, for the second
year of this project.

This is the first new commitment of the Government of Japan for
development assistance for Zambia in 2019.

TICAD VI, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2016, attached importance to
promoting resilient health systems for quality of life, to achieve universal
health coverage, and create "Resilient Africa", among other priority issues.
On the occasion of the visit of H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of
the Republic of Zambia to Japan last month, H.E. Prime Minister Abe
reaffirmed the importance he attached to achieving universal health
coverage in Zambia, while the two leaders confirmed that the relations
between Japan and Zambia would enter a new phase of cooperation, and
Japan made a new commitment of grant assistance of 500 million Yen or
about 50 million Kwacha for upgrading the equipment at the University of
Zambia School of Veterinary Medicine.

We appreciate the activities of JOICFP in Zambia.
JOICFP, from December 2014 to December 2017, had implemented, in

cooperation with PPAZ, among others, with the grant assistance from the Government of Japan, the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service Project in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts in Copperbelt Province, covering 10 areas.

The similar Project for Promotion of Women's Health throughout the Life Cycle at One Stop Service Site in Zambia commenced last year, covers larger 11 areas in Masaiti, Mpongwe and Lufwanyama Districts in Copperbelt Province, and aims to improve access by all women in the areas, including girls and pregnant women, to health services throughout their life cycles, by renovating existing Rural Health Centres there as well as capacity improvement of the staff of Health Offices and those responsible for health and medical services in the Districts concerned so that they may appropriately train members of Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGs) engaged in enlightening activities on reproductive health, and Peer Educators (PEs) in the areas, among other activities.

Thus the new project covers wider places and generations, indeed the whole life cycles of the beneficiary women whose number is estimated to reach 75,795.

Last year, already the One Stop Service Site at Njeleman Rural Health Centre was completed by JOICFP in Masaiti District, Copperbelt Province, and was handed over to the District Health Office.

We believe that for Zambia to continue to achieve further development in a sustainable manner, the strengthening of the health sector is important, among other sectors.

Thus the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in cooperation with its private sector, in various ways, including funding this project.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to significantly benefit the women in the target areas, to contribute to universal health coverage in Zambia.

Thank you.