

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Launch of the Project of “Promoting Human
Security Through Early Recovery Interventions for the Refugee Population
in Zambia” on Friday 26 April 2019

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

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

Mr. Chanda Kabwe, National Coordinator, Disaster Management and
Mitigation,

Mr. Israel Dessalegne, Acting UNDP Country Representative,

Mr. Junichi Hanai, JICA Resident Representative,

Senior Government Officials,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words on the project of “Promoting
Human Security Through Early Recovery Interventions for the Refugee
Population in Zambia” with the grant assistance from the Government of
Japan amounting to 500 thousand US Dollars.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Government of the Republic of
Zambia in accepting refugees and former refugees, not only from the
neighboring DR Congo and Angola, but also from Rwanda, Burundi and
Somalia, totaling almost 80,000 people.

What is very unique here is that Zambia recognizes many long-term refugee
immigrants from Angola and Rwanda totaling about 23,000 people as
“Former Refugees”, and is implementing “the Sustainable Resettlement
Programme” for them.

For all issues of refugees and former refugees, UNDP, UNHCR, 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 a total of 11.3 million US Dollars to UNHCR from 2012 to 2016, more than 2 million US Dollars (USD 2,087,000) to UNHCR, UNDP, UNHABITAT and UNICEF in 2017, and 1 million US Dollars to UNHCR in 2018.

This year the Government of Japan decided to provide 500 thousand US Dollars to UNDP for its Project of “Promoting Human Security Through Early Recovery Interventions for the Refugee Population in Zambia”, 500 thousand US Dollars to UNHCR for its Project of “Protection and Assistance to Refugees and Other Persons of Concern in Zambia”, and 800 thousand US Dollars to United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security for its Project of “Promoting Human Security Through Sustainable Resettlement in Zambia” which will be implemented by UNDP and UNHCR.

In order to further contribute to “the Sustainable Resettlement Programme”, in addition to the contributions to the UN Agencies which I have mentioned, Japan has, through JICA, assigned a local integration advisor to the Office of Vice President, provided 20 mobile science laboratory kits to secondary schools, implemented a project for improving the maintenance and management of the existing boreholes with the cooperation from AAR Japan, and dispatched a JOCV to Meheba A Primary School and another to Meheba A Secondary School.

Furthermore, JICA is now preparing for commencing a technical cooperation project for promoting local integration of former refugees in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba.

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, 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.