

Thank you Chair, Director General, and Distinguished Delegates. I am Shigeyuki GOTO, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. It is a great honor for me to make a statement today on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Before going into the agenda, I would like to express Japan's basic position regarding the current situation in Ukraine. The recent aggression by Russia against Ukraine is a clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, a unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force, and an act that shakes the very foundations of the international order. This is a grave breach of international humanitarian law and absolutely unacceptable. Japan condemns it.

The Government of Japan expresses its unwavering support for Ukraine's workers and employers, and its democratically elected government, as reflected in its co-sponsored ILO Governing Body resolution.

Chair, please allow me to express my sincere appreciation to Director-General Guy Ryder and his team for their efforts in organizing this Conference.

With regard to the theme of the Director-General's report, Japan has been supporting various forms of development activities for nearly 50 years through the ILO/Japan multi-bilateral programs. These programs responds to the actual conditions and needs of countries around the world through initiatives such as improvement of OSH standards, and development of social insurance systems. Last year, we doubled our financial contributions to these programs, and has decided to maintain the level of these contributions this year.

For the development of the LDCs, it is important that all relevant international organizations work together by considering the wide range of issues faced by LDCs as a common agenda while respecting the each LDC's country ownership.

In this context, I believe that the ILO need to take strategic action in the areas of investing in people and building resilience against future shocks.

For the past two years, we have been doing our utmost to overcome the COVID-19 crisis. We must now further advance the discussion with a view to building forward a better post-COVID-19 society, while paying attention to climate change and achieving a “just transition”.

From this point of view, Japan intends to actively contribute to the discussions at the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meetings, which will be held in December.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Director-General Ryder for his work over the past decade. During this period, the ILO has spearheaded various activities, including responses to the COVID-19 pandemic among other crises, and initiatives for the future of work in response to structural changes in society.

As a founding member of the ILO, the Government of Japan will continue to place special emphasis on social dialogue and make every effort to address persistent challenges in the world of work.

Thank you for your kind attention.