

Opening Remarks by H.E. Ambassador OKANIWA Ken
Spotlight Session “Development and HDP Nexus addressing forced displacement”
at the Global Refugee Forum
Tuesday, 17 December 2019

Thank you, Mr. Macleod.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us today.

I would like to express our gratitude to the co-organizers, Uganda, UNHCR, UNDP, the World Bank, OECD and JICA.

I would also like to welcome our distinguished panelists including Minister Namuyangu and Ambassador al-Shawabkeh. Both Uganda and Jordan accept a large number of refugees from neighboring countries, putting great strain on the host government and communities. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation to Uganda and Jordan for their generous acceptance of refugees.

In order to address the development challenges posed by large refugee situation to the host countries, regional peace and stability, it is critical to promote the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Japan has long put this approach into practice, complementing humanitarian aid for refugees with development aid to host countries. We welcome UNHCR’s critical role to promote the nexus and its incorporation in the Global Compact for Refugees.

In this connection, I would like to mention UNHCR’s recently published evaluation report on the nexus. This interim report has many useful and interesting findings. In particular, it provides insights on UNHCR’s role as a catalyst in the nexus approach and different forms of potential cooperation with development actors. Let me add that Japan has provided renewed funding to UNHCR for research on the nexus approach this year to support the transition from humanitarian to development assistance.

The nexus approach is all the more important, due to the increasingly protracted nature of refugee situations. From the perspective of a displaced person, the nexus helps them, through capacity building and other supports to become self-reliant.

Japan’s emphasis on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in response to refugee situations is based on the concept of “human security” as promoted by Ms. Sadako Ogata, the former UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Taking this opportunity, I would like to pay tribute to her legacy.

Implementing the nexus approach requires closer collaboration between humanitarian and development players. I look forward to an interesting discussion among the panelists.