

Statement by H.E. Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan

“SDG Moment 2021”

20 September 2021

Your Excellency, Secretary-General,

Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly,

Excellencies, Distinguished guests,

The COVID-19 pandemic has been seriously impacting various areas of the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to achieve the SDGs by 2030, every country must develop creative strategies and work together to accelerate our efforts. As a country that attaches great importance to multilateralism, Japan is determined to lead the efforts of the international community to achieve the SDGs.

With this in mind, Japan has submitted its second voluntary national review in four years, taking into account the valuable opinions of various organizations, associations and civil society. The review sets out Japan’s vision to "build back better" from the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on this review, we will promote international cooperation and raise awareness in Japan.

First, equitable access to vaccines and other tools is indispensable in the fight against this infectious disease. It is also critical to establish a more resilient global health system to prepare for future crises. To

address these, Japan will continue its efforts to achieve universal health coverage globally based on the principle of human security and the belief of “leaving no one’s health behind”.

At the same time, to address climate change, promote digitalization, and realize gender equality, Japan will push forward social transformation that shapes the future, by promoting and utilizing innovation in every field.

The “Sustainable Development Goals” are an important compass to overcome unprecedented crises and lead the world to a better future. Before the end of this year, international conferences which are closely related to the SDGs are scheduled to be held, such as the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021. Taking advantage of these meetings, Japan will do its utmost toward achieving the SDGs by 2030 and creating a hopeful future.

Thank you.