

Statement by H.E. Ms. Kazuko Shiraishi
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At the World Humanitarian Summit High-Level Leaders' Roundtable
“Women and Gils: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality”
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Japan, based on the concept of human security, will continue to push the agenda on women forward vigorously in order to realize a society where women shine. Women are particularly vulnerable to conflicts and natural disasters. It is the international society's shared responsibility to protect women in times of humanitarian crises and empower them to build a society resilient to crises.

Japan knows well that there are various fields in which women can take leadership and play significant roles. For example, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, women's voice played a significant role for the reconstruction of the cities and towns. In Ishinomaki City, for example, their familiarity with the surroundings and everyday family needs enabled them to provide a very detailed proposal for how to Build Back Better, such as how sidewalks should be gently inclined to make them accessible to seniors. Based on these kinds of experiences, Japan commits to work on the following areas.

First, Japan commits to promote the leadership and the participation in decision-making of women at all levels regarding disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery.

Second, Japan commits to ensure equal participation of women in all stages in the field of peace and security, thereby achieving gender mainstreaming.

Third, Japan commits to promote women's participation and leadership through the whole process of prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts as well as in decision making while strengthening a gender-equal perspective.

Fourth, Japan commits to protect various aid recipients, including women and girls, from violence and other human rights infringements during or after conflict or in humanitarian crises such as large-scale disasters.

Fifth, Japan commits to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance while reflecting circumstances and needs unique to women and girls, promoting women's empowerment, and ensuring women's participation.

Japan also commits to promote Universal Health Coverage thereby improving women's access to health services.

In order to implement these measures in practice, Japan will provide support for women's empowerment in developing countries through a newly adopted sectoral development strategy. Specifically, Japan will support capacity building of about 5,000 female officials and professionals in the field such as maternal and child health and disaster risk reduction and the improvement of educational environment benefiting about 50,000 girls over three years in total.

Thank you very much.