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Global health and foreign policy

Letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement dated 2 September 2022 to explain Japan's position with regard to General Assembly resolution [76/301](#) of 2 September 2022, entitled "High-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response" (see annex). It would be appreciated if you could circulate it to the Member States as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 129.

We would like to thank all co-facilitators for the active coordination and constructive engagement with respect to the resolution.

(Signed) **Ishikane** Kimihiro
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Global health and foreign policy: high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

On behalf of Japan, we welcome this resolution on global health and foreign policy: high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. We are grateful to the facilitators and the core group for their leadership and dedicated work.

Firstly, while appreciating the resolution on the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, we would like to reiterate the importance of placing various health issues in the context of universal health coverage and the health system as a whole, and of strengthening the overall health agenda within the United Nations system. Two years of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have reminded us of the importance of strong health systems as the foundation for achieving universal health coverage and health security. As COVID-19 and other health issues become more complex, we believe that it is time to integrate efforts in the health arena, which historically have been siloed by disease and by field, and to address health issues in a comprehensive manner, including at the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in 2023. In that context, we value the resolution just adopted, as it adequately reflects the needs we have as we continue to prepare for the next pandemic.

It will be necessary to cooperate with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the discussions in Geneva so as not to override the efforts being coordinated mainly by WHO, such as the discussions on an international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response. In this regard, as the Vice-Chair of the Bureau for international document negotiations in the intergovernmental negotiating body, Japan would like to make efforts to coordinate with colleagues in Geneva.

Moreover, in order to avoid overlap with the high-level meeting on universal health coverage to be held in 2023, and to ensure maximum synergy with it, we believe that consideration should be given to the back-to-back scheduling of the meetings. In addition, the political declaration should be prepared in such a way as to enhance synergy with other health agendas, including universal health coverage. Japan would like to participate constructively in the coordination process in this regard.

Meanwhile, we felt that the negotiations on the draft resolution did not allow sufficient time for consultations and that the process was not sufficiently transparent. We hope that this point will be fully taken into consideration in future discussions on modalities.

Finally, we promise to contribute faithfully to the discussion on the modalities of the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. We look forward to enthusiastically discussing how to harmonize various health issues while streamlining budget implications.