

Delegation from
Japan

Represented by
[School Name]

Position Paper for the World Health Organization

I. Universal Vaccination & Immunization

Being one of the largest donors on global health and a genuine believer in the benefits of universal vaccination and in the necessity of fair and equitable access for all, Japan is doing its utmost for achieving universal health coverage and providing access to vaccination for all. Japan fully supports the development of therapeutics, vaccines, and diagnostics and is working towards their further distribution by providing the necessary facilities to improve the infrastructure, education, and health management globally, including developing countries. Japan has provided support for the establishment of the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana, and we observe the concrete results of our never-ceasing efforts and cooperation with international organizations. Japan seeks to ensure the construction of “relevant international frameworks that will be able to deliver results”, as Yoshihide Suga, Japan’s current prime minister, explained in the 75th Session of the General Assembly (New York, 22 – 29 September 2020). Japan emphasises the importance of the goal “no one is left behind” and all relevant information as outlined in A/RES/74/20. Because of this, Japan stresses the significance and relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and regrets to express how insufficient the resources and efforts are as outlined in A/RES/74/2; despite the positive response in many states, most of the goals are unattainable. Japan expresses its hope of the full implementation of A/RES/70/1, developed on 10 October 2019, and plans to further invest time and resources into universal vaccination, having already provided foreign aid of over 1.54 billion USD to medical and health sectors in 2020. Japan further proposes the global promotion of public-private partnership, which is essential to the health sector. Japan will stay actively seized on the matter.

II. Mental Health Services

Japan recognises the need to strengthen and establish mental health services in each state, taking into consideration the increase in suicide rates and more prominent presence of mental disorders globally. Japan acknowledges the potential causes of this increase in each state, regardless of the development of the country's economy—lack or loss of access to mental health services, lack of resources and medical personnel, economic inequalities within a state, imprecise national legislation, local disturbances—and continues to tackle them as advised by the WHO. Japan appreciates the efforts of each state and the UN while advocating for better living conditions and enhancement of mental health services. Japan also fully supports the objectives and solutions present in EB130/SR/10. This issue is of great importance to Japan, being one of the states with the highest suicide rates and observing an alarming increase in the presence of mental disorders among the populous over the last half century. Mental health services have become a matter of increasing importance, and Japan is proud to announce we also observe a decline in suicide rates on a national level after the implementation of the Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020. However, Japan also considers the high cost of mental health services, having in mind an individual with a mental disorder in Japan spends 4,836 USD in mental health services annually, and plans to further promote the affordability of such services. This is also “a substantial economic burden on Japanese society”³. Japan plans to further invest in the field, to aid other countries by providing the necessary facilities and resources, and to further tackle the issue in education, economic development, public funding and awareness, and service coverage. Japan expresses its hope of the establishment of a new relevant and attainable mental health action plan. Japan will stay actively seized on the matter.

References

- [1] “Japan - Prime Minister Addresses General Debate, 75th Session.” *YouTube*, uploaded by United Nations, Google, 26 Sept. 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW_qoB53YaQ&t=3s. Accessed 19 Nov. 2020.
- [2] Wikipedia. "List of Countries by Suicide Rate." *Wikipedia*, version 2020, 19 Nov. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_suicide_rate. Accessed 19 Nov. 2020.
- [3] Yasuyuki, Okumura, Ph.D, and Higuchi Teruhiko, Ph.D. *Cost of Depression among Adults in Japan*. Prim Care Companion CNS Disord, 2011. *US National Library of Medicine*, doi:10.4088/PCC.10m01082. Accessed 19 Nov. 2020.