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**Statement by Mr. MAGOSAKI Kaoru**  
**Minister, Social Affairs, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations**  
**Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on violations**  
**against children in situations of armed conflict**  
**7 May 2021**

Mr. Chair,

I thank Estonia and the co-sponsors for convening this Arria-Formula meeting. I would also like to thank all the briefers, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, for their briefings.

Japan is deeply concerned about the aggravating impact of COVID-19 on children under already fragile situations, including those who are refugees, internally displaced or in conflict affected areas. Girls also need special attention. The international community must step up its efforts to minimize the impact of the pandemic on these vulnerable children affected by armed conflict.

The denial of humanitarian assistance to children affected by conflict is of particular concern during the pandemic. Essential healthcare and protection services for children must be maintained. Relevant medical facilities and access to medical service must be protected from attacks and destruction. Japan welcomes the unanimous adoption of the Security Council Resolutions 2532 and 2565 on COVID-19. Japan urges all parties to armed conflict to immediately respond to the call for a ceasefire and ensure safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access to children in need.

Mr. Chair,

Japan is committed to actively contributing to the protection of children in armed conflict. For example, in March, Japan contributed approximately USD 4.5 million to UNICEF's operations in Syria, including the reconstruction of water and sewage systems to improve access to safe water and sanitation for the population of Eastern Ghouta. It also supports health clinics for women and children by providing medical equipment.

Japan is determined to make every effort to protect and promote children's rights and to ensure human security for all children and their families. Japan looks forward to working closely with the United Nations in this endeavor.

I thank you.