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Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow:
the role of parliaments

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The COVID-19 pandemic threatens the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of people around the world. It is a crisis that threatens human security. With infections continuing to spread, the international community must unite and work together to overcome the crisis as soon as we possibly can. We also need to look toward the future. We must build the foundations for sustainable societies and sustainable growth and strengthen our defenses for the next crisis. Our aim should be to achieve a robust recovery.

But first, our most pressing task is to contain the spread of the virus. For this, it is essential that we continue to develop, manufacture, and distribute vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, and ensure that the whole world, including developing countries, has fair access to these.

Japan is providing full support to multilateral measures including the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility. On June 2 this year, Japan will co-host the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) summit, together with Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Gavi). The summit will include discussions aimed at securing the 8.3 billion dollars required for the COVAX AMC for developing countries this year.

Also important will be measures that look forward to recovery in the

medium and long term. For many years, Japan has provided wide-ranging assistance in the fields of healthcare and medicine, with the aim of achieving universal health coverage based on the ideals of human security. To prepare for future health crises, we are strengthening our assistance to build more robust healthcare and medical systems in developing countries. These efforts involve building hospitals, providing equipment, and training human resources, as well as making environments more resilient to infectious diseases, through water and other hygiene-related infrastructure and nutrition.

At the same time, in addition to healthcare and medicine, achieving robust recovery will require us to strengthen our measures on growth strategies and the various fields set out in the SDGs, including the environment. Japan intends to play a leading role in these endeavors, cooperating with countries around the world to make the SDGs a reality, based on the idea of “no one left behind.”

As parliamentarians, the world looks to us to formulate appropriate policies through the democratic process, reflecting diverse standpoints and opinions, and to put these policies into action. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with my fellow parliamentarians from around the world as we work together to build a better tomorrow.