Statement from JICA

➢ Under COVID-19 situation, ‘combined and cascaded risks’ has been increasingly pronounced. However, we should not be too much distracted by the consequence of the cascading effects.

➢ While biological hazards are full of complexity and difficult to prepare in advance, the mechanism and countermeasures of disaster risk associated with natural hazards can be scientifically explicit. Therefore, with limited financial and human resources, we should not become sluggish in the pre-disaster investment against natural hazards.

➢ Moreover, the root elements of the total cascaded risks can be natural hazards since natural hazards can trigger all the systemic risks. We would like to reaffirm the pre-disaster investment in DRR infrastructure and critical infrastructure is crucial for reducing the extensive disaster risks that are increasing due to rapid urbanization and climate change.

➢ Social and economic vulnerability which expands damages and losses from the initial shocks can be eased by collective efforts among all development sectors. In doing so, practitioners and experts in the respective sectors should also carefully verify whether past practices were effective or not, and how they can be improved. Socio-economic vulnerabilities are the result of our cumulative efforts till now in other words. It is also necessary to develop innovative solution reflecting our experience with COVID.

➢ Through MTR process, we should be aware of the importance of Priority 3, promotion of pre-disaster investment for disaster risk reduction in order to achieve target A to D by 2030, since we are now in the new phase after the targeted year of Target E, 2020. In particular, we should be more aware of the quality of strategies and plans that would really materialize the actual and tangible reduced disaster risks.

➢ Steadily reducing disaster risk with pre-disaster investment definitely takes time and efforts than formulating plans, but JICA further cooperates with developing countries to implement DRR measures such as structural measures that are becoming more and more imperative as the Climate Change Adaptation measures as well.