

**Remarks by Minoru Terada, State Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, at  
Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting**

My name is TERADA Minoru, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications. First, I would like to extend my deep respect to the powerful leadership of the Saudi Arabia Presidency during this difficult situation and express Japan's dedicated support for this Ministerial Statement on COVID-19.

In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential to make practical use of big data to grasp and analyze the infection status. The Japanese government requested mobile phone operators to voluntarily provide statistical data and uses the data for the analysis of people's flow on a same-day basis. Even in the present emergency situation, the practical use of such data should respect the protection of the secrecy of communication and privacy, as well as ensuring of security. Furthermore, each G20 country needs to achieve harmonization of frameworks of global data flow, based on the shared principle of data free flow with trust (DFFT).

To stop the spread of infections while maintaining socio-economic activities as much as possible, it is essential to utilize digital technologies, including telework, remote education, and telemedicine. With increasing dependence on the Internet, ensuring of security is a particularly critical issue. Accordingly, we are taking necessary measures in Japan, which include; Advancement of legislative efforts to position security measures on important infrastructures in the ICT field and Reinforcement of security support, such as fact-finding investigation and checklist provision, for small- and medium-sized enterprises introducing telework.

Establishing a broadband infrastructure that supports the promotion of telework is one of the global issues, and the G20 countries need to cooperate continuously in this matter. In Japan, we are vigorously promoting support for the expansion of information and communication networks including research and development for 5G advancement and toward Beyond 5G and for the active use of them.

Lastly, fake news and disinformation have become problems in many countries around the world in the pandemic. There are also serious situations, such as the violation of the

rights of patients and healthcare workers and the adverse influences on socio-economic activities. To ensure that the reliability of digital technology will not be deteriorated due to fake news, the G20 countries should strongly express their intention to take effective measures against fake news and disinformation by cooperating with private companies and researchers, while respecting freedom of expression. •

Thank you all for listening so attentively.