

Japan-Germany Joint Statement on Loneliness and Social Isolation

Mr. **OGURA Masanobu**, Minister for Loneliness and Isolation in Japan and Ms. **Lisa Paus**, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in Germany held their first exchange on loneliness and social isolation today.

Both sides agreed that loneliness and social isolation are universal social issues that can affect anyone and recognized that these crucial global challenges became more visible and severe due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to conducting nationwide surveys on loneliness and isolation, developing a priority policy program to address these issues, and building collaborative public-private systems, Japan has taken a comprehensive approach to dealing with loneliness and isolation by enacting the Act on Promotion of Policy for Loneliness and Isolation. In Germany, a Federal Government's strategy to counter loneliness is being developed and implemented. Measures against loneliness and social isolation are funded. These efforts aim to strengthen awareness-raising as well as research and specific projects, and to enhance support for those affected and activities that span multiple policy areas.

With this in mind, both sides agreed to continue exchanging information on tackling loneliness and social isolation. Particularly by:

1. Sharing knowledge and measures regarding the importance, from a preventive perspective, of enabling people to feel connections and bonds, eliminating the stigma surrounding loneliness and social isolation, facilitating systems that enable anyone to seek support, making it easy for those around the concerned parties to engage with them, and creating a social environment that fosters such measures.
2. Sharing knowledge on research into the realities of loneliness and social isolation for evidence-based policy making.

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