REMARKS OF ALICE ALBRIGHT

NUTRITION FOR GROWTH SUMMIT

RESULTS JAPAN/WFP PRE-EVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2021

Good afternoon. Members of Parliament, colleagues at RESULTS Japan and the World Food Program, and distinguished guests, I am delighted to be here today and to express my gratitude for the government of Japan's support of the Nutrition for Growth Summit and of the Global Partnership for Education.

Advocates for child nutrition and for a quality education share an important bond. Because when you feed a child, that child is more likely to learn. And when you educate a child, she is more likely to be healthy. This virtuous circle saves lives and makes life worth living.

But, today, millions of children don't have food in their bellies or the chance to learn. It is shocking that 73 million children in low-income countries go to school each day on an empty stomach.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand how hard it is to concentrate and learn when you are hungry.

Helping *all* children reach their full potential means not only investing in their education but also in their health and nutrition.

The Global Partnership for Education does just that.

We are the world's only partnership and fund dedicated to providing a quality education to children in lower-income countries. We work with governments to transform their education systems and with development partners to support school feeding and other programs.

Last year, GPE provided support to nutrition programs in 23 countries to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and help recover from it.

We joined the new Stepping up School Health and Nutrition partnership of the United Nations, World Food Program, and multilateral agencies.

We supported sharing evidence and best practices about nutrition interventions.

Because one thing is clear: school feeding programs get children into school and learning.

Why does this matter?

Because educated children, especially girls, help lift their families out of poverty, and they are healthier.

But girls are often shut out of school. The reasons are many: poor health, gender-based violence, a lack of girl-friendly school sanitation facilities, and discrimination.

Don't take my word for it. Look at the evidence.

Worldwide, 260 million girls and boys don't go to school, and millions more are not learning.

We cannot accept this. We have a moral obligation to act.

Japan is leading the way on integrating nutrition programs into schools. Your school meal program — shoku-iku — is a model for developing countries.

There is so much countries can learn from you . . . . but so much more you can do.

I urge your government to deepen its partnership with GPE and translate your global engagement into an ambitious contribution to GPE. We are seeking to raise $5 billion dollars to educate the world's poorest children, and we need Japan's help.

Together, we can transform the education and futures of all children.

Thank you.