

Embassy of Japan

**2022 Spring Conferment of Decoration  
The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun  
Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka  
Former Executive Director, UN Women and  
Former Deputy President, South Africa**

On 29 April 2022, the Government of Japan announced that Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Former Executive Director of UN Women and Former Deputy President of South Africa, will be awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, in recognition of her contributions to the strong partnership between Japan and UN Women.

Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka led UN Women as the Executive Director for eight years starting in 2013, and successfully guided the new agency, which had been established in 2010.

During her remarkable service at UN Women, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka significantly strengthened the partnership between Japan and UN Women. In particular, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka forged ties with various stakeholders in Japan through her participation in WAW! (World Assembly for Women) and through public and private sector engagement.

Under her leadership, UN Women opened the Tokyo liaison office, the first liaison office in Asia, which has played a significant role in increasing the visibility of UN Women, as well as in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in Japan. UN Women also launched the HeForShe initiative, which promotes the involvement of men and boys in the pursuit of gender equality. Japanese Prime Ministers have served as its champions since Mr. ABE Shinzo.

The date and arrangements for the conferment ceremony will be announced in due course.

End