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Barclays acts as a joint bookrunner for JICA's first Gender Bonds - Contributing to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

16 September 2021 - Barclays Securities Japan Limited (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and Representative Director: Kentaro Kiso) has been appointed as a joint bookrunner for the "Gender Bonds" that Japan International Cooperation Agency ("JICA") will issue. JICA priced 10-year bond and 20-year bond on 16 September, and Barclays has acted as a joint bookrunner for the 10-year bond. The Gender Bonds within the framework of social bonds whose proceeds will be directed to financing projects that will contribute to solving social issues, are characterized by the use of proceeds specifically allocated to gender-equality related projects. This is the first time that JICA will issue Gender Bonds and it is also the first time for any domestic issuer to issue such bonds.

JICA works for 'Gender Equality and Women's empowerment' as a key development agenda cutting across all thematic areas in developing countries. COVID-19 pandemic has compounded existing gender inequalities and vulnerabilities across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection in times of crisis, when resources are strained and institutional capacity is limited, women and girls face disproportionate impacts. By launching Gender Bonds, JICA aims to strengthen their efforts for addressing gender inequality amid the crisis and toward post pandemic future.

The use of proceeds of the bonds are planned to be allocated to: (1) Projects whose main objective is gender equality (e.g. enhancing women's economic empowerment, girls' education) and (2) Projects whose important and deliberate objective is gender equality but not the principal reason for undertaking the project (e.g. women only car and CCTV and alarms installed in metro construction projects).

Tatsuya Maruyama, Head of Japan Debt Capital Markets at Barclays, commented: "By arranging JICA's Gender Bond this time, Barclays supports to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and will continue to strengthen our effort for SDGs bond issuance, providing a financing measure aimed at solving environmental and social issues."

[About SDGs]

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, adopted by all United Nations Member States at the "United Nations Sustainable Development Summit" in September 2015. They consist of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, to be achieved by 2030.

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About Barclays

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