

(As delivered)

High-Level Meeting on Somalia

September 24, 2014

Statement by H.E. Mr. Hiroyasu Kobayashi,

Ambassador in Charge of Regional Economic Communities,

Peace and Security in Africa, Japan

Excellencies,

Japan joins the previous speakers in welcoming the development in Somalia's political process toward implementing "Vision 2016." We sincerely hope that the Government of Somalia will expedite its process towards the adoption of the Provisional Federal Constitution by the end of 2015 and the conducting of the national elections in 2016.

For political process to move forward, stability in security situation is essential. In this context, Japan is concerned that the terrorist acts by Al-Shabab have extended its threat beyond the border of Somalia and to the neighboring countries. For securing peace and stability in Somalia, the Horn of Africa, and the entire international community, the work by AMISOM, Somali National Police and Somali National Army remains essential. Japan will continue to support the security sector in Somalia.

Moreover, assistance for enhancing the livelihood of people is crucial for addressing the root cause of terrorism. In this regard, Japan has implemented assistance that benefits each and every individual in Somalia from the perspectives of human security, totaling approximately 320 million US dollars since 2007. Japan will continue to support Somalia, with the three pillars of 1) reinstating delivery of basic social services, 2) strengthening capacity in public security, and 3) vitalizing the economy. In so doing, Japan will make sure that the assistance for Somalia will be in line with its national policy through close dialogue among Japan, Somalia, and international organizations for effective implementation.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)