

# **Joint Statement between Japan and Georgia on “Solidarity for Peace and Democracy”**

## **I Overall Bilateral Relations**

- (1) Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, welcomed the first visit to Japan by President of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Giorgi Margvelashvili, who assumed the presidency in November 2013 as a result of a democratic election.
- (2) Both sides reaffirmed that sharing fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law constitutes a significant foundation of their bilateral relations, on which both sides expressed their willingness to further develop bilateral relations.
- (3) Expressing their satisfaction at the active dialogue that has been underway between the two governments in recent years, both sides expressed their intentions to further promote dialogue to broaden the range of bilateral relations. In this respect, both sides welcomed the recent exchange of high level visits between Japan and Georgia.
- (4) Noting the importance of exchanges between parliamentary members of the two countries, both sides expressed their expectation for further active interactions between the members of parliamentary friendship leagues in the two countries.
- (5) The Japanese side expressed its appreciation for the visa waiver for all Japanese passport holders by the Government of Georgia. Both sides confirmed their intentions to work to expeditiously introduce mutual visa waiver for their diplomatic passport holders to further promote dialogue between their officials.

## **II Strengthening of Economic Relations**

- (6) The Japanese side expressed its expectation that Georgia’s integration into the European market highlighted by the signing of the Association Agreement including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between Georgia and the European Union (EU) will lead to the further development of Georgia. The Japanese side also expressed its appreciation for the favorable business environment in Georgia which should contribute to increased and diversified investments from Japanese businesses to Georgia.
- (7) Both sides share the view that increased number of events such as exhibitions and seminars are important to expand trade and investment between the two

countries. In this context, both sides welcomed such opportunities involving Japanese businesses as the recent visit to Georgia by ROTOBO and the scheduled visit to Georgia by a business promotion program team organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In addition, the Georgian side expressed its expectation for Japanese companies to enter into economic projects in Georgia, including "the Project of a New Deep Water Black Sea Port Development in Anaklia".

- (8) Both sides reaffirmed Georgia's geographical importance as the westward corridor for transportation of energy resources and other commodities to the regions including Europe. Both sides noted the importance of the engagement of Japanese companies in national and regional infrastructural projects.
- (9) Both sides valued the role by Japan's economic cooperation in contributing to the stability and development of Georgia and in strengthening relations between the two countries. The Japanese side expressed its intention to extend grant assistance for promotion of Georgia's economic and social development efforts. The Georgian side valued the participation by the Government of Japan through JICA in the infrastructure development field, such as "the East-West Highway Improvement Project," and also expressed its gratitude for the contributions made by Japan's human security, grass-roots grant assistance projects in various fields designed to improve the lives of the Georgian people.

### **III Promoting Mutual Understanding between the Two Countries**

- (10) Both sides welcomed the fact that both of Japanese traditional dietary cultures, called Washoku, and Georgian traditional Qvevri wine-producing method were registered as UNESCO's intangible cultural heritages in December 2013.
- (11) Expressing mutual respect to their long histories, traditions and distinctive cultures, both sides noted the importance of deepening mutual understanding through cooperation and exchange in the areas of culture, tourism and arts.

### **IV Efforts of the Two Countries towards Peace and Stability in the International Society**

- (12) The Japanese side explained its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation and its basic policies on the Development of Security Legislation. In return, the Georgian side explained its commitment to contribute to international peace through various means including sharing experience and best practices, education and training opportunities and providing troops in support of peace and security building such as the activities of its forces in Afghanistan and the Republic of Central

Africa. Both sides expressed support for each other's efforts and reaffirmed their willingness to play further proactive roles in the peace, stability and prosperity of the international society.

- (13) Both sides stressed that it is unacceptable to change internationally recognized borders through the threat or use of force or other unlawful means and reaffirmed the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes based on international law.
- (14) Both sides stressed the importance of concrete progress on the United Nations Security Council Reform on the occasion of the 70th anniversary next year. The Japanese side expressed its appreciation for Georgia's continued support for the permanent membership of Japan in a reformed UN Security Council.
- (15) Both sides noted the importance of exploring further cooperation with such international organizations as the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for the stability of the Caucasus region. In this context, the Georgian side expressed its appreciation for Japan's contribution to the projects in the region through the NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund.
- (16) Both sides expressed their intentions to further promote high-level dialogue and practical cooperation in the framework of the "GUAM + Japan". Both sides encouraged elaboration of new initiatives and organization of high level meetings within this framework of cooperation.
- (17) Both sides expressed their intentions to promote cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction, including sharing of Japan's experience for enhancement of disaster prevention, early warning and risk assessment mechanisms in Georgia. In this regard, the Japanese side expressed its expectation for Georgia's active participation in and close cooperation for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.
- (18) Both sides shared the view that peaceful resolution to the conflict in Georgia's occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region /South Ossetia in line with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders are essential for the peace and stability of the country and the entire South Caucasus region and stressed the importance of the Geneva International Discussions, based upon the ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008. The Georgian side expressed grave concern over Russia's intention to conclude the so-called agreement with the regime of Georgia's occupied region of Abkhazia on "partnership and integration". Both sides oppose any unilateral attempts to change Georgia's internationally recognized borders.

- (19) Both sides recognized the importance of ensuring the rights of internally displaced persons and refugees from the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region /South Ossetia, most notably their right to return to the places of origin in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolutions.
- (20) Referring to the situation in Ukraine, both sides underlined the importance of its peaceful resolution and reaffirmed full support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Both sides also reaffirmed the importance of dialogue with Russia regarding this issue.
- (21) Both sides highly valued their assistances to the stabilization of Afghanistan and expressed their intentions to continue efforts for the stability and development of the country as they continue close dialogues with the new Afghan administration.
- (22) Sharing the recognition that the presence of ISIL is a serious threat against the existing international order, both sides reaffirmed their support to the international society's fight against ISIL.
- (23) Both sides expressed their grave concern over North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. Both sides strongly urged North Korea to take immediate actions to address the humanitarian concerns of international society, including the abductions issue.

Tokyo, October 24, 2014

The Prime Minister of Japan

The President of Georgia

Shinzo Abe

Giorgi Margvelashvili